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BALKAN MISERY WORSENS

Herald INTERNATIONAL Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

The World's Daily Newspaper

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London, Monday, April 5, 1999

No. 36,107

New Darkness In the Balkans

The Ghosts of Many Wars Are Haunting Refugees

By Roger Cohen
New York Times Service

BERLIN — All is dark again in southeast Europe. Close your eyes and those long lines of ragged ethnic Albanian refugees struggling out of Kosovo fuse with so many other processions of the Balkan bedraggled: a million Greeks out of Turkey in 1923, 500,000 Turks out of Greece in the same year, more than 750,000 Muslims out of Bosnia in 1992 and 175,000 Serbs out of Croatia in 1995.

Where will it end?
After 12 days of NATO air attacks on Serbia and Montenegro, confusion seemed absolute. A war begun to persuade President Slobodan Milosevic to agree to a peace plan offering autonomy to Kosovo's ethnic Albanians had become a battle to stop him from evicting all those Albanians under cover of the mayhem of air strikes.

A NATO air campaign with limited goals had begun to look like a full-scale war whose true target was Mr. Milosevic — and whose potential to spread to Macedonia and Albania seemed real as more than 200,000 Kosovo refugees struggled across those countries' borders.

Another somber possibility was that the alliance itself could be threatened by the ignominy of failure on the eve of what had been billed as a glorious 50th birthday party this month at a gathering in Washington.

"The credibility of the alliance has been heavily damaged," commented Christoph Bertram in the German weekly Die Zeit. "And it is a bitter irony that in the beginning it was concern for this credibility that was the decisive factor behind the attack."

That attack has now gained an unpredictable momentum. "To say we are out at war seems to me a statement too ridiculous even to refute," said General William Odom of the Hudson Institute. "And wars, as von Clausewitz noted, are acts of force to compel our enemies to do our will. So let's get on with it before the president inadvertently tears up our alliance."

But America's will seemed unclear, even on such fundamental issues as whether to negotiate with Mr. Milosevic, and what degree of international cooperation should have.

A number of outcomes now seem possible, but one trend is inescapable: The history of the Balkans since the beginning of the 19th century is broadly that of the emergence of nation states.

In the place of the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman empires, and later the multinational state of Yugoslavia, smaller countries of peoples claiming the same language, religion and culture have emerged. The process began with Greece, which rose against the Ottomans in 1821 and gained independence in 1930. More recently, the process has brought the establishment of Slovenia and Croatia in 1991.

Throughout, the intermittently bloody unscrambling of mixed populations who often had scant sense of "nationality" has been apparent.

The trend seems unlikely to stop. It suggests that the truncated, surviving Yugoslav federation is unlikely to fare better than its far larger predecessor. One day, Kosovo and Montenegro will probably go their own ways, allowing Serbia, at last, to proclaim itself once more a nation state, as it was in the 19th century. But in the interim, many scenarios seem possible.

The first critical issue, officials said, is whether to keep a diplomatic channel open to Mr. Milosevic that might permit some salvaging of an accord on autonomy for Kosovo.

For now, the channel remains, meager and reduced further by each new reported Serbian atrocity against the ethnic Albanians, but it has not been abandoned.

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Survivors of a Kosovo 'Cleansing' Are Seared by Terror

By Peter Finn
Washington Post Service

KRUMA, Albania — Life's spiral turned slowly in the Kosovo village of Goden, a collection of 20 whitewashed stone houses with red tile roofs that rested on a gentle hill within sight of the Albanian border.

Goden had a small mosque and an elementary school, but no shops, and the villagers made weekly treks for supplies to the nearest big town, Djakovica. The families who lived in Goden farmed a few acres, mostly of wheat, tended vegetable plots behind their houses and raised cows and chickens that

provided them with milk, cheese and eggs.
On March 24, after a day of feasting to celebrate a Muslim holiday, the villagers crowded into sitting rooms to tune in Albanian television and watch the beginning of NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia. But there was no sense that violence was at their doorstep. That night, the villagers slept well.

About 9:30 the next morning, Rokmane Feraj, 33, was eating a breakfast with her five children when she heard gunshots. One of the family's two dogs was being killed in the courtyard. Yugoslav troops, led by a soldier wearing a yellow bandanna and carrying a knife with a 30 centimeter (12-inch) blade, kicked in her door. They screamed at the family in

Serbian, which the Ferajs did not understand. Then all six people in the house were hustled into the street.

So began the destruction of one Kosovo village. Goden was a peaceful place of no strategic importance. Its population was entirely ethnic Albanian, however, and that appears to have been enough to condemn it to death. The residents of Goden were the first people from Kosovo to be herded to Albania by Serbian forces after NATO began bombing Yugoslavia on March 24. Their forced march through minefields ahead of the guns of taunting soldiers was

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Aid Trickles In as NATO Hits Belgrade



Refugees reaching for food that was being distributed from a tractor on Sunday at the Macedonian border.

Allies Step Up Action In Kosovo and Strive To Cope With Exodus

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — After predawn cruise missile strikes that left targets in Belgrade aflame, NATO officials said Sunday that the alliance would reinforce its air offensive against Serbian forces in Kosovo and commit allied ground troops to help neighboring countries cope with a growing ethnic Albanian exodus from Kosovo.

As aid started to flow to the hundreds of thousands of refugees, and major U.S. reinforcements arrived in the area, the alliance seemed to modify its war aims. It implicitly acknowledged that it had badly underestimated President Slobodan Milosevic's audacity and the tenacity of his military and special police forces.

Beyond its goal of destroying Serbian forces through air attacks, NATO also committed troops to ground relief operations, incorporating military protection, around Kosovo.

The need to preserve the ethnic Albanians' prospects for returning to their homes in Kosovo has emerged as a leading war goal of the alliance, officials indicated.

Alliance ground forces, including Americans, entered the overall Western operation for the first time when they were ordered to deploy in Macedonia and Albania to help deliver supplies and to stabilize the desperate refugee situation.

Western officials stressed a need to prevent Mr. Milosevic from succeeding with "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo and to prevent the region from being destabilized by fears that the refugees might become a permanent burden on neighboring countries like Macedonia and Albania.

As evidence of Western commitment to resolving the crisis, the NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said Sunday that NATO nations planned to fly almost 100,000 refugees to Europe and North America.

The day after cruise missiles hit government installations, including the Interior Ministry, in Belgrade for the first time and destroyed bridges said to carry military supplies and communications, the United States announced major reinforcements for the air war. These included sea-launched Tomahawk cruise missiles and the F-14 Tomcat fighter-bombers aboard the carrier Theodore Roosevelt.

The expanded raids by cruise missiles, which can operate accurately against fixed targets even in the poor weather that has grounded most of NATO's 450 warplanes in the area, continued Sunday, knocking out a second bridge over the Danube at Novi Sad and destroying a factory in Belgrade.

President Bill Clinton's administration has also agreed to provide Apache attack helicopters — heavily armed gunships that could spearhead a drive against Serbian tanks and ground forces in Kosovo. The Apaches will go to Albania, which had said it would welcome NATO units.

"It's a logical expansion of the current air operation," said Ken Bacon, the Pentagon spokesman, speaking in Washington. "It gives us greater precision, all-weather capability, day or night, to go after the types of weapons that the Yugoslav Army is using to not only oppress the Kosovar Albanian people but to drive them from their villages and to shell and crush the villages."

The deployment of the Apaches, the army's low-flying gunship used to destroy tanks, carries a political risk in the

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AGENDA

U.S. and U.K. Jets Attack Iraqi Sites

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — Iraq said one person was wounded Sunday when Western aircraft attacked targets in the Western-imposed southern no-flight zone. In Washington, the Pentagon said F-16 and F/A-18 fighters and British GR-1 Tornados had attacked a missile battery and communications sites after Iraqi violations of the zone. There was also an attack Friday, the first since March 19.

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In China, a Plague of Fraud Leads to Tragedy

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

QIJIANG, China — On Jan. 4, shortly before sunset, a squad of soldiers was jogging along the river in this county seat nestled in the mountains 100 kilometers from the grimy metropolis of Chongqing.

As the troops headed a footbridge, witnesses said, the squad leader stopped to tie his shoelaces, letting the rest of his men pass.

That probably saved his life. As he looked on, 40 people, including 18 soldiers, were killed when the concrete and steel bridge, 140 meters (460 feet) long, tumbled into the roiling waters of the Qijiang River.

The collapse of the Rainbow Bridge in Qijiang is one of scores of disasters befalling construction projects around China. Toppling bridges, roads, dikes, buildings and dams are raising serious questions about the success of China's efforts to spend itself out of a recession and sidestep Asia's financial ills.

Nationwide, news of dikes filled with mud instead of concrete, of buildings without foundations and of roads built on swamps is common.

In Chongqing alone last year, 1,600 people died because of shoddy work on construction sites or collapsing infrastructure projects. Beijing's western train station, completed last year but already crumbling, was the subject of press scrutiny until Chinese reporters linked its construction contracts to senior leaders and further news stories were stopped.

Last month, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji devoted a chunk of his annual report to Parliament to corruption in the construction sector, promising to crack down on "bean-curd projects," so named because they fall apart easily. The Ministry of Public Security recently ordered the police nationwide to investigate projects for inferior work.

And in a development designed to frighten officials into walking the straight and narrow, a trial of 31 officials from Qijiang accused of

cutting corners and stealing money as they built the ill-fated bridge was aired live on Chinese television. On Saturday the court sentenced a local Communist Party official to death and 12 other people to prison terms ranging from three to 13 years.

In a dispatch on the trial, the New China News Agency said late last month that workers from the Three Gorges Dam project had been encouraged to watch the proceedings. That \$25 billion plan to dam the Chang Yang River is China's biggest and most controversial infrastructure project, involving the construction of one of the world's largest dams and the resettlement of 1.8 million people. In December, Mr. Zhu expressed concern about the quality of engineering work there.

Qijiang's flimsy bridges illustrate one of the country's most bedeviling economic issues. For the past two years, in the face of slipping exports and numbing foreign investment

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Konpyutaa-Speak: Older Japanese Log On to Linguistic Challenge

By Nicholas D. Kristof
New York Times Service

TOKYO — Toshiyuki Shimizu picked up a computer instruction manual and frowned. "Look at this," he complained. "Start button. 'Click.' 'Start menu.' 'Device.' 'Slot.' This is all English!"

Well, not quite all English but pretty close. The actual first sentence read: *Sutano botan* (start button) o *kurikka* (click) suru, *sutano menyuu* (start menu) ga *kyoji* sareru.

For many middle-aged and elderly Japanese, life these days is a perplexing struggle through what seems like an endless language school. In restaurants, in stores, in newspapers, on television and in conversation with young people, they find themselves bewildered by what seems like an explosion of foreign terms.

"It's very annoying when you walk down the street and you can't understand a word on the street signs," complained Hideo Nabekura, an 82-year-old fireball of a woman, gesturing furiously with her arm.

"When my friends and I go to lunch these days, we can't understand the menu," Mrs. Nabekura continued. "One time I went by myself, and I couldn't understand the items on the menu, so I picked what seemed to be the cheapest. And the waitress said, 'No, it's a kid's meal.'"

Restaurant menus are particularly challenging because, out of snob appeal, they translate the sounds of foreign words rather than the meanings. That results in offerings ranging from *paati menyuu* (party menu) or *happii awaa* (happy hour) at the simpler end to *haabu-roosutochikin* (herb-

roasted chicken) and *rujjiana sutairu kurabukeeki* (Louisiana-style crab cakes).

English words may seem challenging enough, but for many Japanese it is the menus of French restaurants that are the most baffling.

For example, *l'Ecrin*, a French restaurant in Tokyo, offers a fish and shrimp dish that is *poware ju do omaaru*. The chef explains that this is "police, jus de bœuf," or sautéed in a special way in the juice of a lobster.

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Newstand Prices	
Bahrain	1,000 BD
Cyprus	€ 1.00
Denmark	€ 17 DKR
Finland	12.00 FM
France	€ 0.85
Great Britain	£1.00
Egypt	CE 5.50
Jordan	1,250 JD
Kuwait	700 KD
Mexico	250 MXN
Nigeria	1,250 Naira
Oman	1,250 OMR
Qatar	10.00 QR
Saudi Arabia	IR 21.10
Singapore	10 SR
South Africa	R16 incl VAT
U.A.E.	10.00 Dh
U.S. & Canada	\$ 1.20
Zimbabwe	2m540.00

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'Pushing Forward' / New Hope of Democracy

Algerian Editor Persists in Long Freedom Fight

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

ALGIERS — Omar Bellouchet's name is not on the ballot for the presidential election on April 15, an election that many Algerians consider as a gateway to democracy. But many Algerians consider him and others like him at least as important to hopes of freedom as any of the presidential candidates.

Mr. Bellouchet, 46, is editor in chief of *El Watan*, the most spirited of a dozen independent newspapers that have sprung up in the 1990s. He has been a champion of liberties that Algerians have been denied by a repressive oligarchy of generals and bureaucrats.

For him, as for hundreds of Algerian editors and reporters, it has been a bitter decade. More than 70 journalists have been killed during the conflict that erupted in 1992 between the government and armed Islamic groups when the military canceled an election that the Islamists seemed poised to win. Some have died in car bombings, others from bombs that exploded at their offices, but most from shootings.

Mr. Bellouchet has survived two assassination attempts and a stint in police custody in 1993 on charges of printing "premature information" about the killing of six police officers. The case is still dragging through the courts, although the report was confirmed within days. It is one of a dozen cases still pending against *El Watan* and its editor under a web of restrictive press laws. In two cases, including the one involving the killing of the policemen, he faces jail terms if appeals go against him.

In 1993, Mr. Bellouchet's wife, Nacera, died of a heart attack. She was 30 years old. He blames the pressures his work brought on his family, including an attempt by two gunmen that year to kill him while he was dropping off his two small children at school. In 1995 two other gunmen followed him as he left an Algiers courthouse, but he outran them and found sanctuary in the crowds.

With the tempo of the conflict with the Islamic rebels now sharply reduced and the generals promising to allow a democratic evolution through the presidential election, the pressures have diminished, but they are not gone. Like many editors and reporters, Mr. Bellouchet continues to live in a heavily guarded compound on the outskirts of Algiers. His newspaper, like other independent papers, has its offices in another high-walled compound in the heart of the city.

"Entrenching press freedom in a country like this is a difficult business," he said. "You move forward, you get hit, you fall down, you get up, move forward, get hit again. It's a never-ending process. It's not something that happens in an intellectual's salon, amid the niceties of fine debate."

The struggle entered a new phase after 1988, when riots in the streets of Algerian cities forced the military oligarchy to introduce a new constitution permitting opposition political parties and independent newspapers. But especially since the conflict with the Islamic rebels began, the liberties inscribed in the constitution have often proved more theoretical than real. Apart from prosecutions on charges of inciting the armed forces or libeling senior officials



John Gattuso/The New York Times

Many Algerians consider Omar Bellouchet of *El Watan* and other editors of independent newspapers as important to the prospects of freedom as any of the presidential candidates in the April 15 election.

with articles alleging corruption, restrictive laws have been used to close *El Watan* and other independent newspapers for weeks, and sometimes months.

Editors and reporters, including Mr. Bellouchet, have faced long periods under "judicial control," which requires them to report regularly to police stations and bars them from leaving the country.

Because the government owns all the country's printing presses, it has been able to block individual issues, or to force the censorship of articles it has disapproved of. It has also favored some papers — and disfavored others — by assigning advertising by state-owned businesses. Typically, papers that have taken an uncritical view of the government's tactics in fighting the Islamic rebels have been rewarded, and papers like *El Watan* have been starved.

For *El Watan*, a cooperative owned by 18 of its editors and reporters, this has meant surviving on minimal wages, now the equivalent of about \$300 a month for the reporters. But the paper's circulation, currently 100,000 copies a day, has continued to rise, and Mr. Bellouchet and fellow editors at other independent papers have not been cowed.

Among other things, they have continued to raise what has become one of the central questions about the conflict between the government and the rebels, an issue known among French-speaking Algerians as "Qui tue qui?" — literally, "Who is killing whom?" One of the pending court cases against Mr. Bellouchet involves an appeal against a one-year jail term on charges of "impugning the security of the state" by saying on French television that not all the journalists who have been killed have been victims of Islamic terrorists. He did not say whom he

suspected, but just by raising the issue he touched on the most sensitive of all the government's nerves.

International human rights groups have suggested there may have been government complicity in massacres of hundreds of villagers at a time in the mid-1990s. But Mr. Bellouchet, after inconclusive investigations by *El Watan*, believes most of the massacres may have been the work of the rebels, and that others may have been carried out by private groups settling vendettas or engaged in land-grabs.

"Le Pouvoir has used violence to fight violence," he said, using a popular French word for the ruling generals that means the Power. "In some cases, doubtless, things got out of hand; people pushed aside the law, and got involved in some unpleasant things. But I don't believe that *Le Pouvoir* would ever have said to the army, 'Go and kill whole villages, and make it look like the works of the Islamists.' No, that I cannot believe."

Similarly, he is optimistic that the generals are sincere in promising to step down. One encouraging sign has been the appointment of a new information minister, Abdelaziz Rahabi, a former diplomat who has begun his tenure by licensing the establishment of independent printing presses, ending favoritism in the assignment of government advertising and — unheard of for government ministers in the past — taking editors like Mr. Bellouchet out to lunch.

"These are still dramatic and difficult times," Mr. Bellouchet said, "but their main characteristic is an overwhelming popular fight from all forms of autocracy and oppression, whether in the form of military authoritarianism or religious extremism."

"The whole society wants to move forward, and for the first time now those pushing forward are more powerful than those pushing back."

Libya Invites Officials To Witness Handover

New Sign of Pan Am Suspects' Extradition

The Associated Press

CAIRO — Arab dignitaries have been invited by Libya to witness the handover of two suspects in the 1988 Pan Am bombing, a further sign their promised extradition is imminent, an Arab League official said Sunday.

Ahmed Ben Heli, the Arab League's assistant secretary-general, said his delegation would fly to a Tunisian airport, Djerba, from where they would be driven to the Libyan capital, Tripoli. Representatives from six Arab countries also would attend the handover to a United Nations representative, he said.

"It is good news for the Libyans — indeed, for all Arabs — that this quandary is finally over," Mr. Ben Heli said before leaving Cairo, site of the League's headquarters.

The move followed reports that the chief UN legal counsel, Hans Corell, had left for Europe on Friday on his way to Libya to arrange for the handover. Lameen Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Bassat Ali Megrahi are to be tried under Scottish law in the Netherlands.

After a decade of insistence that Mr. Fhimah and Mr. Megrahi be extradited

to the United States or Britain for trial, the United States agreed in August to a trial in the Netherlands. Libya said last month it would turn the men over on or before Tuesday.

The bombing of the Pan Am jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, on Dec. 21, 1988, killed 270 people — mostly Americans and Britons — on the air and the ground. The two Libyans, allegedly former intelligence agents, were suspected of planting a suitcase bomb on the plane.

Mr. Ben Heli said he would represent the League's secretary-general, Esmat Abdel-Meguid, who could not make the trip because of other commitments.

The Algerian diplomat said the Libyan government also has invited foreign ministers of six Arab countries that formed a contact group set up by the League in 1992 to help negotiate an end to the crisis with the United States and Britain.

Mohammed Zaki Abu Amer, an Egyptian foreign minister's envoy, was to represent Egypt. Other countries expected to send high-ranking officials were Syria, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria and Mauritania.

Lionel Bart Dies; Lyricist And Composer of Musicals

The Associated Press

LONDON — Lionel Bart, 68, the lyricist and composer who created "Oliver!" and other musicals, died here Saturday. He had been under treatment for cancer.

Mr. Bart played a large role in re-creating the English musical at a time when American productions tended to dominate London's stages.

He also won dubious fame for losing his fortune from "Oliver!" and survived long years of alcoholism and excess.

Andrew Lloyd Webber praised his fellow composer.

"Lionel was the father of the modern British musical," Mr. Lloyd Webber said Saturday.

Mr. Bart's first musical, "Fings Ain't Wot They Used T' Be," premiered in 1959 and had a two-year commercial run in London. He also produced for "Lock Up Your Daughters" that same year.

And then in 1960 came "Oliver!" based on Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist."

The play had a long run followed by successful revivals in 1967 and 1977.

The show was also a hit in New York. And Mr. Bart won Broadway's Antoinette Perry award (the Tony) for the music and lyrics of "Oliver!"

Vera Tolstoy, 96, Granddaughter And Last Living Link to Writer

NEW YORK (NYT) — Vera Tolstoy, 96, the last living link to her grandfather Leo Tolstoy, who became a teenage bride in Czechoslovakia, worked as a hairdresser in Prague, sang Gypsy songs in Paris, sold perfume in New York and spent 25 years with the Voice of America in Washington, died Monday in New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

To the world of the early 1900s, Tolstoy was a literary giant. To his granddaughter, who grew up on a nearby estate with her mother, Sophia, and father, Ilya, the author's second son, he was simply her beloved bushy-faced *dedushka*, the jolly grandfather in a peasant shirt who bounced her on his knee and tickled her cheek with his whiskers.

A small, lively woman who could affect a magisterial air, Miss Tolstoy dropped her hereditary title, countess, after she went to the United States in 1949, but as an aristocratic exercise of no less obligation saw no reason to correct friends who addressed her that way.

Jesse Stone, 97, Songwriter Of 'Shake, Rattle and Roll'

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, Florida (WP) — Jesse Stone, 97, a major influence on 20th-century music who wrote "Shake, Rattle and Roll" and helped develop many of Atlantic Re-

cords' biggest hits, died of heart and kidney ailments April 1.

As a writer, producer and arranger at Atlantic, Mr. Stone worked with artists such as Ray Charles, Big Joe Turner, the Drifters and the Clovers. Among his famous songs were "Idaho" and "Money Honey."

In 1974, the president of Atlantic Records, Ahmet Ertegun, said, "Jesse Stone did more to develop the basic rock 'n' roll sound than anybody else."

Mr. Stone's wife, the singer Evelyn McGee Stone, said that on the day her husband went into the hospital for the last time, he began writing a new song while she was playing with their dog.

"I had been saying to the dog, 'That's it, that's it,' and he wrote a song and that's the title," she said.

Mr. Stone, the grandson of Tennessee slaves, had a career that spanned the spectrum: minstrels, folk songs, dance orchestras, rhythm and blues, rock and roll and jazz.

"He always was on the cutting edge, never quite achieving fame but highly respected within the core of the profession," she said.

He helped build Atlantic Records into a top rhythm-and-blues label in the late 1940s and early 1950s, signing such stars as Ruth Brown.

"Her first record came out. Bang! It was a hit. We got a group called the Clovers. Their record came out. Bang! It was a hit," Mr. Stone said in a 1991 Associated Press interview. "Everything we touched after that went over big. Sometimes we had four or five records on the chart at the same time."

It was Mr. Stone and Bill Haley, who had a Top 10 hit in 1954 with Mr. Stone's "Shake, Rattle and Roll," who paved the way for the acceptance among whites of what had been considered "Negro music."

Lucien Aigner, 97, Pioneer In 35mm News Photography

NEW YORK (NYT) — Lucien Aigner, 97, a pioneer in candid news photography in the 1930s whose best-known photographs include one of a rumpled Albert Einstein standing in front of a blackboard, died Monday in Waltham, Massachusetts.

In the 1930s, photographers like Mr. Aigner, Erich Salomon, Alfred Eisenstaedt and Robert Capa used the unobtrusive 35mm Leica to take off-the-cuff, natural light pictures.

They opened the way to wartime action photography and the technique gradually supplanted the traditional high-camera flash photography in newspapers.

With Terrorism Subdued, Tourists Flow Back to Nile

By Howard Schneider
Washington Post Service

CAIRO — If all goes according to plan, a group of American tourists will arrive in the Egyptian capital Monday, board a bus, and head south to tour antiquities in the provinces of Minya and Asyut.

Those areas have been at the center of a Muslim extremist uprising that jangled nerves for five years and wrecked the tourist industry with the November 1997 massacre of visitors in Luxor.

The bus trip will be the first of its kind since the early 1990s, and is evidence of both the relative calm that has settled over Egypt since the Luxor attack and the quick rebound of the tourist trade. Fifty-eight visitors, mostly Swiss, were slain in Luxor; the six assailants were also killed while battling the police and local residents who came to help.

If the trip is approved by Egyptian security officials, and the tour organizer expects it to be, it will mark an important turning point in a country where, for much of this decade, groups trying to replace the secular government with an

Islamic one seemed to strike with regularity and impunity.

They have attacked conferences and huses and attempted assassinations of political and cultural leaders.

Clashes between Islamic militants and police in places like Minya were frequent and frequently fatal. Over five years of confrontation, an estimated 1,200 people, mostly militants and members of the security forces, are estimated to have been killed.

Since Luxor, however, violence linked to the country's militant Islamic movement has been almost nonexistent, a fact attributable to increased and improved Egyptian security and to an apparent change of tactics by the main Islamic group.

In a recent statement that analysts regard as its most meaningful yet, the Islamic Group said it was formally renouncing violence as un-Islamic and would work through more standard political and social channels to advocate a government based on Sharia, the legal code of Islam.

Critics note that the so-called ceasefire may be largely a matter of necessity.

The Luxor murders repulsed most Egyptians, ruined many businesses by scaring off tourists, and cost the movement dearly in terms of its public standing.

Over the past year, Egyptian officials have been dogged, and apparently effective, in rounding up many of the group's leaders from hideouts scattered from the Balkans to South America.

With many of the group's leaders in jail, security improvements in place throughout major cities and tourist sites, and foreigners returning in droves, Ahmed Fakhy, the tour organizer, said the bus trip through the southern provinces seemed a natural idea.

By bringing tourists to Minya and Asyut, "a big battle will have been won," said Mr. Fakhy, whose company, Travel Plus, wants to ensure that Upper Egypt is back on the tourist agenda for millennium celebrations.

Asyut is thought to be the end point of the flight Jesus and his family made from Israel, and tour marketers want to make it accessible to Christian pilgrims planning to visit Jerusalem and other regional holy sites.

A year ago, that probably would not

have been possible. Luxor was fresh in people's minds as Egypt's tourist industry suffered through one of its worst years. Hotel occupancy rates fell to as low as 15 percent in some of the major tourist venues, and even places like the port of Alexandria, largely unaffected by the violence, were dropped from cruise ship and tour itineraries.

The towns of Upper Egypt — so named, even though they are in the south, because of the direction that the Nile River flows — have been strictly off-limits because of tension between Islamic militants and the police. The site of several significant ruins, they also became known for the potshots that rifling locals sometimes took at passing trains or tourist boats.

Time, however, has apparently healed Egypt's image. Hotels say they are doing as good a business now as before the Luxor massacre; planes are packed; Nile cruise ships are fully booked for their journeys between Luxor and Aswan. The plateau around the Great Pyramids of Giza is jammed with buses, and loud with the sound of lectures in German, Spanish, English and other languages.

TRAVEL UPDATE

Traffic Jams in Spain

MADRID (AP) — Spaniards returning from Easter holidays clogged highways with huge traffic jams Sunday, while airports struggled to cope with a pilots' strike on one of Spain's busiest travel days.

Traffic slowed to a crawl on many highways, especially those leading back to Madrid from coastal areas to the east and south.

At the Madrid airport, the state-run airline Iberia canceled 36 flights because of the strike, which is scheduled to end Monday. The rest of its flights were running 20 minutes late on average.

Jamaica Calls In Troops

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Soldiers have begun patrols in the resort town of Ocho Rios to assist police, a Jamaican Defense Force spokesman said.

The decision to use soldiers follows several crimes against tourists and the murder last month of a German tour operator at his business near Ocho Rios.

The Breitling Orbiter-3 balloon capsule in which a Swiss-British team made history last month by circling the globe nonstop will be housed at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, its sponsors said.

This Week's Holidays

Banking and government offices may be closed or services curtailed in the following countries and their dependencies this week because of national and religious holidays:

MONDAY: Albania, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Bosnia, Botswana, Britain, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tanzania, Togo, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

TUESDAY: Bosnia, Hong Kong, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Thailand.

WEDNESDAY: Armenia, Israel, Mozambique.

THURSDAY: Azerbaijan.

FRIDAY: Cyprus, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Greece, Lebanon, Liberia, Philippines, Tunisia.

SATURDAY: Eritrea.

SUNDAY: Albania, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Georgia, Lebanon, Macedonia, Syria.

Printed by Newsfax International, London. Registered as a newspaper at the post office.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

WEATHER

Forecast for Tuesday through Thursday, as provided by AccuWeather.

Europe

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Algeria 27/30 16/21 26/29 17/22 26/29 17/22 26/29 17/22

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Tokyo 16/21 11/22 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24

Yokohama 16/21 11/22 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24

Zurich 16/21 11/22 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24

Source: Bloomberg, Reuters.

North America

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Chicago 16/21 11/22 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24

Dallas 16/21 11/22 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24 17/23 12/24

Denver 16/21 11/22 17/23 12/24 17/

THE AMERICAS

Field for President Is Fast Becoming Clear

By Dan Balz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — With Vice President Al Gore aboard, Marine Two lifted off the grounds of the Naval Observatory a little before 7:30 A.M. on March 15, bound for Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland. Mr. Gore was headed for New Hampshire and Iowa on what his aides were billing as his first excursion of Campaign 2000.

A chartered press plane, the only one of Mr. Gore's vice presidency, waited on the tarmac at Andrews to join the procession, a sign that this was no routine trip. Never mind that the voters were not paying any attention. With just 633 days left until Election Day 2000, there was no time to waste.

Mr. Gore's sense of urgency reflected the intensity of the opening round of the presidential campaign, a race that has developed earlier and more distinctly than many of the strategists on both sides expected.

By that morning, 10 Republican candidates were either in the race or at the starting gate; a handful of heavyweight Democrats once expected to run had dwindled to two: Mr. Gore and Bill Bradley, the former senator from New Jersey. Even before the dates of all the primaries were established, political talking heads were busy handicapping a general election contest between Mr. Gore and George Bush, the Republican governor of Texas.

The flurry of activity underscored the high stakes of the 2000 election — the first open presidential contest since 1988, and the first time since 1952 that both the White House and at least one house of Congress have been seriously in play in the same year. It also illustrates the financial and organizational demands of a

nominating process that will produce Republican and Democratic standard-bearers in the first 75 days of 2000. Some analysts have suggested the intensity of the campaign also reflects a desire to change the subject after a year of scandal, impeachment and political turmoil. But if anything, the first chapter of Campaign 2000 has been shaped by those very events.

President Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky injected character into the election equation. The Republican-led impeachment inquiry energized Republican conservatives but turned off much of the rest of the country. And the midterm elections helped to unite Democrats and throw

Republicans into disarray.

Other events will intervene, as the war in Kosovo already has demonstrated, to reshape the contest and possibly rearrange the standings. But there is a clear hierarchy in the Republican race, despite a crowded field of candidates. Republican strategists say the story on their side is, for now, Mr. Bush against the field.

On the Democratic side, Mr. Gore was always destined to be the dom-

already well under way.

Republicans have seized on Mr. Gore's inflated claim about creating the Internet, and his lyrical description of boyhood summers spent plowing steep hillsides in Tennessee, and clearing fields with an ax.

"Republicans were never able to pierce Clinton's political armor, no matter how much they tried," said Marshall Wittmann of the Heritage Foundation. "Now they believe Gore is susceptible to the most devastating weapon in politics, which is ridicule."

On the other side, the National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League has run ads attacking Mr. Bush and Mrs. Dole for opposing abortion. The Democratic National Committee sent out a release last week accusing Mr. Bush of hiding from reporters, something Republicans saw as an early countermove by the Democrats to raise the Texas governor's negatives.

The unexpected clarity of the Democratic race has forced both Mr. Gore and Mr. Bradley to rapidly organize support in the key states of Iowa and New Hampshire. This early start is crucial. If Mr. Bradley wins in either state, the race will change quickly and fundamentally. If he does not, it will end there. "The Bradley campaign is sort of down to a two-day sale," said Geoff Garin, a Democratic pollster.

Mr. Gore's sense of urgency reflects the intensity of the opening round of the campaign, a race that has developed earlier than many strategists expected.

POLITICAL NOTES

Reform Advocates Take Cash Anyway

PALM BEACH, Florida — Former Senator Bill Bradley devoted years to scolding the campaign finance system as riddled with loopholes and ruled by wealthy interests. But that has not deterred him from partaking in it himself.

At a recent reception at an elegant Palm Beach hotel, the New Jersey Democrat snagged moneyed members of his party between their bites of beef Wellington and seafood parfait and tried to persuade them to contribute to his presidential campaign.

Senator John McCain, Republican of Arizona, is also known for championing campaign reform. But there he was the other day at a fund-raising brunch in Washington, where, for \$250, donors were treated to a buffet and a

speech by Mr. McCain, who is seeking the Republican nomination. For \$1,000, donors also got their photographs taken with the senator and hobnobbed with him at a reception beforehand.

Both candidates contend that the existing laws leave them no choice but to devote much time to fund-raising, and both have taken some steps to restrict the ways in which they collect money. Unlike many rivals, they did not establish shadow organizations in states, which would have enabled them to raise large sums of unregulated money. Mr. Bradley has refused funds from political action committees.

Fund-Raiser Accuses Senior Chinese Aide

WASHINGTON — The chief of China's military intelligence secretly

directed funds from Beijing to help re-elect President Bill Clinton in 1996, a former Democratic fund-raiser, Johnny Chung, has told federal investigators.

Mr. Chung says he met three times with the intelligence official, General Ji Shengde, who ordered \$300,000 deposited into the California businessman's bank account to subsidize campaign donations intended for Mr. Clinton, according to sources familiar with Mr. Chung's sealed statements to federal prosecutors.

In their first meeting, on Aug. 11, 1996, in Hong Kong, General Ji allegedly conveyed Beijing's interest in supporting Mr. Clinton. Mr. Chung quoted him as saying, "We like your president," sources familiar with his grand jury testimony said.

Mr. Chung was sentenced to five years' probation for his involvement in illegal campaign contributions in the 1996 election.

Away From Politics

• Louis Farrakhan's condition has improved since doctors operated on his prostate cancer, and the Nation of Islam leader may be released this week from Howard University Hospital in Washington, sources said. (WP)

• Eight Mexican immigrants died and more than 50 were rescued from canyons in San Diego County after a spring storm dropped a foot (30 centimeters) of snow along a favorite route of illegal immigrants. (LAT)

• Wholesale beef products from Rochester Meats in Minnesota were ordered recalled nationwide after inspectors found a strain of E. coli in samples. (AP)

Careful Search After Louisiana Storm

The Associated Press

BENTON, Louisiana — Searchers spent Sunday carefully moving debris from piles of wreckage, hoping to find more survivors after a tornado sheared a swath more than 3 miles long through this town and killed six people.

Teams with dogs had searched through the night, looking for spots where survivors might be hidden.

Their work was slowed because many power lines were down, and there were several gas leaks in the areas that had

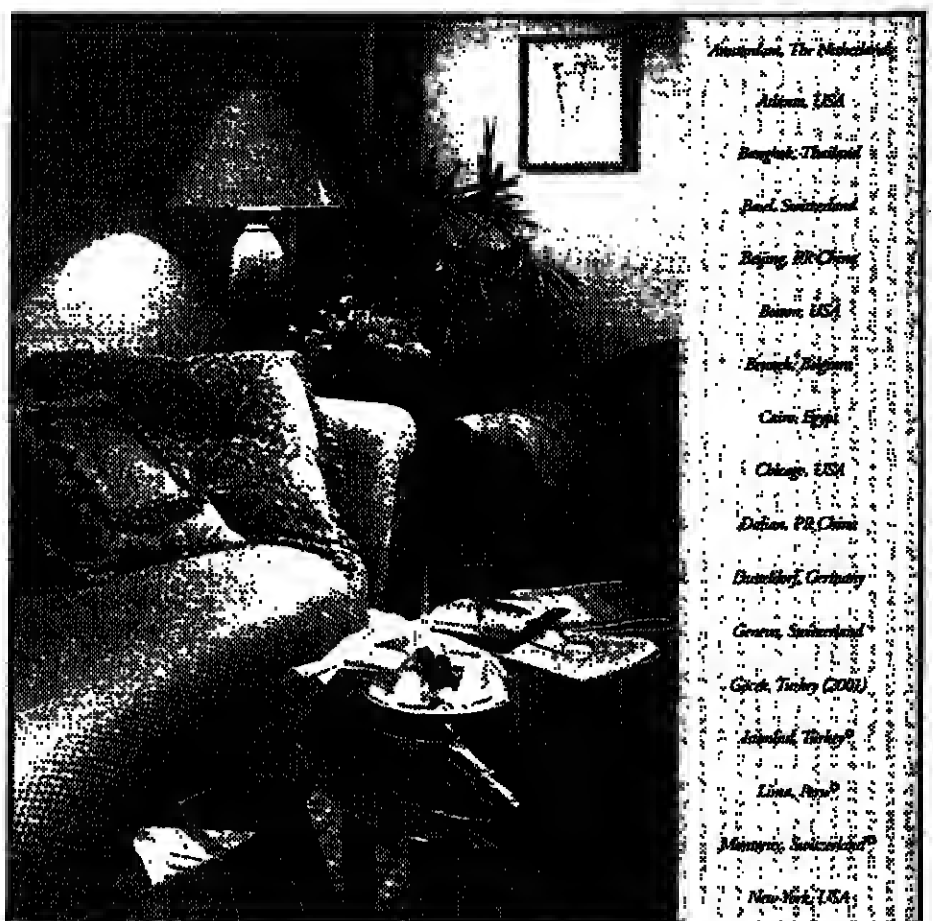
been flattened by the twister.

The tornado, believed to be about half a mile (1 kilometer) wide, curved through farm and rural land Saturday, and hit two trailer parks in this northwest Louisiana community as well as the subdivision of Palmetto Park.

Six people were known dead, and hospitals had treated and released 100, said Larry Deen, sheriff of Bossier Parish. Area hospitals overflowed, and some people were taken to nearby Shreveport. Oak trees were toppled,

and pines were snapped. Cars and trucks lay crushed, roofing tin was wrapped around giant pecan trees and fences were festooned with tufts of insulation.

A separate tornado destroyed a church in Logansport, a DeSoto Parish town southwest of Shreveport near the Texas border. And a tornado or severe wind damaged some homes and caused minor injuries in a Shreveport neighborhood. The same mass of storms caused flooding in southern Missouri.



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EUROPE

Europe Comes Together To Back NATO Bombs

Surprising Support, From Germany to Italy

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

BERLIN — As a founding member of Germany's Green party, Joschka Fischer cut his political teeth in the anti-war movement. He marched in the vanguard of street protests during the 1980s in opposition to NATO's plans to station cruise and Pershing missiles in his country.

But now that he serves as foreign minister in a coalition with Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's Social Democratic Party, Mr. Fischer has taken a prominent role in defending NATO air strikes against Yugoslavia. In an ironic twist of fate, the former pacifist participated in the historic decision to send German planes into combat for the first time since World War II.

"When you are confronted by genocide and mass human suffering, you cannot sit passively with your hands folded and ignore the killing of innocent civilians," Mr. Fischer said in an interview. "I believe there are certain human values that are more important than pacifism, and those are rooted deeply in my conscience."

For a generation of Europeans who disparaged NATO strategy in the Cold War and hung white sheets from their windows to show their dismay with "cowboy imperialism" in the 1991 Gulf War against Iraq, the allied bombing campaign against Yugoslavia has generated a surprising degree of support across the continent.

This time the war against the Serbs is only a short distance away, but the street protests are strangely subdued. While many Europeans are troubled by seeing NATO's defensive alliance attack a sovereign nation without any mandate from the United Nations, their qualms have been stifled by countless tales of Serbian atrocities told by ethnic Albanian refugees who have been streaming into Albania and Macedonia by the tens of thousands every day.

Since NATO war planes took to the skies over Yugoslavia on March 24, public support for the operation has grown steadily across Europe. In Britain and France, a solid majority is now in favor of sending ground troops to Kosovo — even though their governments are still reluctant to do so — to stop Serbian forces from forcibly deporting the population and to clear the way for the safe return of refugees.

The shifting sentiments have been most pronounced in Germany, which until recently refused to send any military forces abroad because of sensitivities dating to the Nazi era. A poll published Thursday by the weekly newspaper Die Woche showed that 62 percent of those surveyed supported the air strikes and approved of Germany's participation, while 31 percent were opposed.

Despite such robust public support, the decision to join the allied effort has caused a serious rift among the Greens. Party officials say more than 200 people have torn up their membership cards in disgust. A splinter group of pacifists has petitioned to overturn the government's policies of air strikes and will lead the Easter peace marches this weekend.

"I am ashamed for my country, which is once again dropping bombs on Belgrade," Hans-Christian Strobel, a Bundestag member, said in a heated debate last week. His reference to the fierce bombing campaign waged by Hitler's Luftwaffe during World War II resonated in the consciences of many Germans.

Some German politicians fear public support may vanish if the war worsens and if the refugee crisis swells in such proportions that many of them would require shelter in Western Europe. Germany took in 350,000 refugees during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina and is loathe to accept new ones from Kosovo, particularly because their presence could fuel xenophobic sentiments behind a steady surge in right-wing extremism.

Interior Minister Otto Schily has warned that Germany has already reached the limits of its capacity to absorb more immigrants and that a further influx of refugees could exacerbate the dangers of civil unrest.

"We believe the refugees should stay as close as possible to Kosovo," said Deputy Foreign Minister Gerd Grottel. "Our assumption is that we will soon achieve our political goals and the refugees will be able to return to their homes in Kosovo." He said if Western Europe opened its doors, it would send "a completely false signal" by removing any hope the refugees might return soon to their homeland, so reinforcing the Serbian ethnic cleansing drive.

But Mr. Fischer and other Green leaders say governing responsibilities have opened their eyes to the need to take a firm stand against genocide. "If you are called a warmonger, then you begin to ask yourself whether you have really made every effort at finding a peaceful solution," Mr. Fischer said last week. "I can only say that in my case, the answer is yes."

In Britain, the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair has displayed none of the Labour Party's legacy in favor of unilateral disarmament and other pacifist causes. Only a week ago, aides at 10 Downing Street expressed anxiety about losing public support if the air strikes lasted much beyond a week. But instead, surveys show that two-thirds of the British people now favor a major escalation of the war effort, including the dispatch of ground troops to help the refugees go home. A Guardian/ICM poll published Friday indicated that those who favored sending in troops had surged 19 points in the past week.

In Paris, the conservative president, Jacques Chirac, and the Socialist prime minister, Lionel Jospin, have set aside their political animosities and the French frostiness toward NATO to line up behind the bombing. Public opinion has backed them up: 58 percent of the French people support the allied war effort, including possible use of ground troops. Twenty-nine percent are opposed.

Nonetheless, there are lingering doubts about following an American lead and possibly getting embroiled in a Balkan quagmire. Mr. Jospin has struggled to maintain unity within his leftist cabinet, as communist and Green members express serious reservations about going to war with the Serbs under the NATO banner.

In Italy, where 11 air bases house many of the NATO war planes, the left government of Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema has expressed alarm about the dangers of a protracted bombing campaign and called for renewed efforts to find a negotiated solution to the Kosovo crisis. But even as the government in Rome wavers over air strikes, the plight of Kosovo refugees appears to have fortified public support. A poll published Friday in the newspaper Corriere della Sera showed the number of Italians who believe military action is justified rose from 25 percent to 37.3 percent over the past week.



Captain Joseph Schweizer with his attorney, Navy Lieutenant Kathryn Clune, left, and family members after his sentencing in North Carolina.

Navigator in Alps Accident Dismissed From Marines

By Matthew L. Wald
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — A military jury has sentenced the navigator of a jet that severed ski-lift cables in the Italian Alps last year, killing 20 people, to dismissal from the Marine Corps for obstructing justice by destroying a personal videotape he shot during the flight.

The jury at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, imposed no prison sentence for the officer, Captain Joseph Schweizer.

The dismissal of the officer is the equivalent of a dishonorable discharge for an enlisted service member. The charges against Mr. Schweizer, obstruction of justice and conspiracy to obstruct justice, carried maximum sentences of five years. The sentence on Friday, which could be appealed and eventually set aside, makes it unlikely that anyone will go to jail for the accident, which caused the ski lift's gondola to fall about 400 feet (120 meters).

The pilot of the plane faces court-martial on the same charges. But he is not accused of destroying the tape, only of removing it from his video camera, taking it off the plane after an emergency landing and giving it to Mr. Schweizer.

A spokeswoman for the Marine Corps, Lieutenant Colonel Ellen Haddock, said, "While that word 'dismissal' doesn't sound like much, that is a punitive discharge. It's more than losing your job. This is a felony offense, and it's a record."

Colonel Haddock added, "This will stay with him."

Military officers and veterans said the dismissal would probably bar Mr. Schweizer from using his 10 years with the Marines or his degree from the U.S. Naval Academy in getting a job.

U.S. and France Spar Over Missile Proliferation

By John Mintz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — For analysts at the National Security Agency, the transcripts scrolling across their computer screens in May 1997 set off immediate alarms. Bank letters of credit, intercepted by the U.S. spy agency's electronic snooping, appeared to show that a French company was selling missile components to Iran that could end up in weapons targeting ships in the Gulf.

Within days, U.S. diplomats marched into the French Embassy in Washington to formally protest that the private deals were helping Iran build C-802 missiles. In numerous tense meetings on both sides of the Atlantic, senior administration officials repeated the charges in French authorities, who vehemently denied that the sales had anything to do with missiles.

Ten months of acrimonious exchanges failed to resolve the issue. But today, U.S. intelligence agencies believe that Iran possesses as many as 150 of the anti-ship cruise missiles, most bought from China, but some manufactured by the Iranians themselves based in part on copies of the French engine.

The story of how the C-802 missile and its high-tech French engine made its way first to China, and then to Iran, is a case study in one of U.S. foreign policy's central preoccupations: the proliferation of missiles and other weapons, particularly those, such as the C-802, that in theory terrorists could use to mount a germ war attack. Although Washington has the political will and the world's most sophisticated intelligence network, preventing the spread of these missiles and their components has been one of U.S. intelligence's most frustrating tasks. The effort has produced victories and defeats — and many inconclusive dead ends.

Counterproliferation is hard work in part because American allies do not necessarily share Washington's view of which countries should be reined from high-technology commerce. And in the world of 1999, where a U.S. nuclear weapons lab scientist and American satellite makers are under investigation for communicating with the Chinese on sensitive technical matters, it might be next to impossible to control every bit and byte of information streaming overseas via every kind of data network.

A hundred pages of secret and top-secret documents of the National Security Agency, State Department and Pentagon tell the inside story of the Chinese C-802, a little missile that gets around, and in particular its most crucial component, the TRI-60 engine manufactured by the French company Microturbo SA.

The papers detail how Microturbo developed the engine in the 1980s and sold it to China starting in 1987

for use in the C-802. Later the Chinese sold completed C-802s to Iran. Finally, U.S. intelligence picked up what it considered evidence that the French company sold the same engines to the government in Tehran last year.

Doubts about that conclusion have grown as the French have insisted that Microturbo was sending power generators rather than engines to Iran. But the fact remains, U.S. officials say, that Iran has the missiles and has made some of them itself.

The papers — supplied by the National Security News Service, a nonprofit group that has researched the C-802 — show U.S. intelligence in the mid-1980s started scrutinizing development of the missile, which China called Ying Ji or "Strike Eagle." The TRI-60

American allies do not necessarily share Washington's view of which countries should be reined from high-technology commerce. And it is almost impossible to control every bit and byte of information.

engine powered the C-802 and its armor-piercing warhead near the speed of sound, making the missile akin to France's highly regarded Exocet.

Beijing's missile agency, China Precision Machine Import & Export Corp., bought its first shipment of 50 Microturbo engines in 1987. The French sent 50 more engines in 1993 and possibly another 50 in 1996.

In 1988 a Chinese laboratory called the 31st Institute began "reverse-engineering" or copying the engines for itself. But the Chinese found this difficult, said a Chinese engineer taped by the National Security Agency.

During this research, Microturbo gave the Chinese key design data on the engine, the papers said. But the chairman of Microturbo, Jean-Bernard Cochet, said in a statement to The Washington Post that the company had "never trained any Chinese engineer to design missile engines or reverse-engineer engines for missiles."

In 1990, U.S. officials were alarmed to learn that China was selling C-802s to Iran, along with the means for Tehran to build its own C-802 factory. U.S. spy cameras in space snapped away as a Chinese ship delivered the first C-802 to an Iranian port in 1993.

U.S. officials soon asked Beijing to stop selling Iran C-802s or components, to no avail. In late 1996, President Jiang Zemin of China told President Bill Clinton in Australia that Beijing would not sell more C-802s to

Tehran. But the papers say China continued parts sales until late 1997, when Chinese officials promised Secretary of State Madeleine Albright that they would end the shipments of C-802s and related technologies.

In the end, China delivered 150 or so of the 400 missiles that Iran had ordered.

The Iranians sought to find a new source of C-802s. Like Beijing, Tehran started reverse-engineering the weapons to make them itself. But first it needed Microturbo engines and parts. Tehran officials retained a Hong Kong company, Jetpower Industrial Ltd., to act as a front in purchasing the French engines, components and technical help from both the Chinese and from Microturbo, the reports said.

The documents describe the delivery of Microturbo equipment — which the National Security Agency believed was missile engines — on a ship traveling from Antwerp, Belgium, to Iran last March.

In May 1997, the agency acquired evidence that Microturbo was selling hardware to the Iranian military, using a \$1.1 million line of credit. U.S. diplomats immediately filed complaints with the government of the new French prime minister, Lionel Jospin.

French officials replied that they would not allow the sale of missile engines to Iran, but U.S. suspicions persisted. Thomas Fickering, undersecretary of state for political affairs, and other U.S. diplomats lodged five more protests with the French government.

French officials said Microturbo was selling Iran generators, not missile engines. But U.S. officials remained firm.

A State Department report said that even if only generators had been shipped, "CIA assesses it is relatively easy to substitute the electrical turbine assembly in a Microturbo generator with a nozzle to produce a missile engine."

In early 1998, French officials told U.S. diplomats that its export inspectors opened Microturbo crates in Antwerp bound for Iran and confirmed that they contained generators. Faced with the French denials, the National Security Agency acknowledged that some of the conversations in its transcripts may have been more ambiguous than it had decided before. It concluded that the machines that Microturbo sent Iran indeed could have been generators, albeit militarily useful ones, a U.S. official said.

Speaking of his company's \$2 million sale to Iran, Mr. Cochet said Microturbo said the generators were "very different from engines used to propel missiles" and were not useful in building missile engines. "Microturbo SA never assisted Iran in any way" on any missile, he said. But he declined to answer whether the company had sold missile engines to China because under French law, any French approval for such a sale is secret.

BRIEFLY

Moscow Rebuts U.S. On Missiles to Syria

MOSCOW — Moscow denounced on Sunday a U.S. move to penalize three Russian weapons manufacturers for selling battlefield missiles to Syria. It accused Washington of double standards.

In a statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. decision to impose sanctions on three arms companies would deal a further blow to bilateral relations, already strained over the NATO air attacks on Yugoslavia in the Kosovo crisis.

The U.S. State Department said Friday that it would impose sanctions on the Tula Design Bureau, the Volyski Mechanical Plant and the Tsniitochmash plant for concluding deals to supply anti-tank missiles to Syria, a country blacklisted by Washington as a supporter of terrorism.

The sanctions could deprive the three plants of up to \$90 million, a U.S. spokesman said.

Kyrgyz Leader Dies After 3-Month Rule

BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan — Prime Minister Djumabek Ibrahimov of this Central Asian republic died Sunday at a Bishkek hospital after a four-year battle against stomach cancer, his spokesman said.

Mr. Ibrahimov, 53, had suffered serious liver complications in recent weeks and also a brain hemorrhage shortly before dying, his spokesman said.

"The prime minister's liver was in a very bad condition but the basic causes of death were a blood hemorrhage in the brain and cancer metastasis of the stomach," the spokesman said.

The prime minister had been in poor health long before President Askar Akayev appointed him prime minister on Dec. 25. That surprise appointment

Basques Said to Buy Guns Despite Truce

MADRID — The Basque guerrilla group ETA spent 75 million pesetas (\$500,000) on weapons in the last year despite a cease-fire it announced in September, the Madrid newspaper ABC reported Sunday.

The conservative paper said documents obtained after the arrest of one of the top ETA leaders last month showed that the separatist group bought the weapons on the black market for \$500,000 and paid for them in dollars.

ABC cited anti-terrorist experts who said the weapons were obtained during the cease-fire or when the cease-fire was being planned.

ETA declared a unilateral cease-fire last September, halting 30 years of violence.

Supply Ship Docks With Russia's Mir

MOSCOW — A cargo ship carrying more than two and a half tons of food, water, fuel and equipment for scientific experiments docked smoothly with Russia's Mir space station on Sunday, Russian news agencies reported.

The Progress cargo ship blasted off from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Friday and joined the Mir at 12:46 GMT.

The Mir's crew of two Russians and a Frenchman is possibly its last. If international investors cannot be found who are willing to foot the station's \$250 million yearly costs, the government intends to discard the craft in August.

Ulster Plan Lacks Support Of Sinn Fein

Agence France-Presse

BELFAST — The Irish Republican Army's political wing appears in have distanced itself from a new plan to break the deadlock in the Northern Ireland peace process.

Gerry Kelly, a Sinn Fein negotiator and a former IRA activist, stressed at a news conference that his party had had no hand in the new initiative.

"The two governments put forward a proposal. We were not involved in negotiating it, nor did we agree to it," Mr. Kelly, a key figure in the pro-United Ireland movement, said Saturday.

"Let me make that clear: we did not agree in it or negotiate it and, as I am informed, was not involved in it either."

Mr. Kelly added there was "frustration and disappointment, bordering on anger" among Republicans at the continuing impasse.

On Thursday, talks led by Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain and his Irish counterpart, Bertie Ahern, failed to achieve any progress on the hocking issue of IRA disarmament.

Protestant unionists demand a start to disarmament begin before Sinn Fein takes part in a new all-party coalition government. Sinn Fein refuses all conditions on its government seats.

In a last-ditch effort to salvage the agreement, Mr. Blair and Mr. Ahern announced another round of talks for April 13 to discuss their new initiative.

In it, they proposed that the new semi-autonomous administration in Belfast be nominated "within the next few weeks" in shadow form. Within a month a "collective act of reconciliation" would take place, in which the IRA and other militias would be required to hand over some arms on a "voluntary" basis.

At that point, powers would be transferred from London to Belfast. If the IRA had not honored its side of the bargain, Sinn Fein would be expelled.

The continuing failure to implement the year-old peace accord has steadily eroded confidence in it and prompted fears of a return in violence by the Roman Catholic and Protestant militias.

LANGUAGE

Obeisance to Sharp Edges in a World of Fuzz

By William Safire
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — "The two were not only made for each other," wrote The Washington Times about star-crossed lovers, "they deserve one another."

The editorialist, grappling with the rules of correctness, was undoubtedly torn. Question: When writing about a relationship between two people, is it proper to use each other or one another? The writer refused to choose, and the editorial went both ways.

At The New York Times, we have firm guidance to keep us from such pushpully style. Our Style Manual, now embedded in software so that century-old judgments can be amended in a flash, is sternly prescriptive: "each other, one another; two persons look at each other; more than two look at one another." It's a comfort to have a rule. That's our style. If you write for The New York Times (or the Associated Press, or the Wall Street Journal, whose stylebooks present a united front and follow one another on this), that's the way it is, like it or lump it. If I were to write, "Two stylebooks disagree with one another," an alert copy editor would demand I change it to "two each other." Sometimes a kindly copy editor will call to say, "Are you deliberately trying to slip this egregious error into the paper, thereby generating mail from infuriated grammarians and giving you a subject for your language column?" (I don't do that, as a rule.)

What if I were to respond to the corrector in chief at my newspaper, Samuel (Dictionary) Johnson once wrote about "six ministers who meet weekly at each other's houses," breaking the rule. And Bishop Lowth, the 19th century's high priest of usage, instructed that "two negatives in English destroy one another," breaking the rule the other way. In 1926, Fowler — St. Henry himself — wrote that "the differentiation is neither of present utility nor based on historical usage," and in his recent revision of Fowler, Boh Burchfield declares that the belief of the rule makers is "untenable," citing recent breakings by classy writers like

Anita Brookner and Nadine Gordimer. E. Ward Gilman, editor of Merriam-Webster's indispensable Dictionary of English Usage, often unfairly disses by me as "Dr. Roundheels," assembles these authorities and concludes about the each rule: "There is no sin in its violation," adding from his loosey-goosey perch, "It is, however, easy and painless to observe if you so wish."

I so wish. If I did not, and instead chose to break the stylebook rule, a great contraband would take place. Citations all over the floor. [No sentence fragments! — Ed.] In the end (at the denouement of the contrabands, not never at the end of the day), a Sanhedrin of Copy Editors might permit my dissenting usage, but only if accompanied by an explanation for my departure from the Stylebook Team, including their punchy rebuttal and my stinging surrebuttal. (Sometimes they let me win; that's why New York Times style is now to spell Rumania Rumania.)

IN THE SAME WAY, the three newspaper stylebooks stand foursquare for the between/among rule. The AP cites "the maxim that between introduces two items and among more than two." Thus, it's "between you and me" and "among the three of us." But here comes Dr. Roundheels again (Gilman is honorably retired but comes out swinging at my request), trotting out a parade of authorities who disagree, and denouncing as a waste "the enormous amount of ink spilled in the explanation of the subtleties of between and among." And no doubt he has common usage on his side.

But not good usage. [You really ought to do something about those sentence fragments. — Ed.] What's wrong with an obeisance to sharp edges in a world of fuzz? If we adopt as a rule the practice of using each other and between with two, and rigorously apply one another and among to three or more, our world of words is a little more tightly organized. We're operating comfortably within agreed guidelines. We have a Style.

A style is a set of conventions, not a fundament of grammar fixed in our brains like subject-verb agreement. A stylistic rule is not a law. No cellblock

in Reading Gaol is reserved for those condemned of using between the three — and indeed a medal is pinned on writers careful to use between when expressing a relationship of several items considered a pair at a time.

But when you play by the rules of grammar — that is, when you agree to adopt a style that befits a certain level and tone of discourse — and then stick to the rules you've learned, you get a subtle intellectual kick that the anything-goes crowd never experiences. And when you break any rule for effect, as when you use a sentence fragment now and then for emphasis, or begin a sentence with and to foster an illusion of spontaneity or afterthought, you are like an actor playing a drunk and performing an exquisite stumble.

The respecter of the rules of an adopted style becomes a member of a club so determinedly inclusive as to be truly snooty. You're in, and nobody can cancel your membership as long as you consult the rule book. The secret handshake and the code ring are yours. With these symbols comes the sense of belonging, of secure security, of snug noninferiority that suffices all those who clothe themselves voluntarily in the golden chains of good usage. (I learned psychology from "The Story of O.")

If you take language as a metaphor for life, your respect for the gently arbitrary rules of style signifies your willingness to respect the rules of civility in the way you behave. Breaking a rule of style or even of civility gains force and meaning only when you know what code you are violating and why.

IMAGINE, two centuries ago, the Loopy editor for the Committee on Style of the Constitutional Convention going up to Thomas Jefferson and pointing to the last line of his proposed Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America: "We mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor."

"Not only is mutually redundant, Tom, but you're referring to more than two people, so it should be one another." And Jefferson would reply: "We're the Committee on Style, right? Leave it the way it is."

ASIA/PACIFIC

Zhu to Face Volatile Issues And Critics in Trip to U.S.

By Erik Eckholm
New York Times Service

BEIJING — Zhu Rongji, China's charismatic prime minister and currently the driving force behind its ambitious economic changes, arrives in the United States this week determined to fight the downward spiral in U.S.-Chinese relations — but without departing from the Communist Party line.

Mr. Zhu, 70, widely admired in China for his frank talk and impatience with incompetent officials, will have to confront head-on the many political disputes that have come to a boil since his trip was conceived in the aftermath of President Bill Clinton's visit to China last year. Human rights, accusations of Chinese nuclear spying, the military balance with Taiwan and a widening trade gap are all factors that have soured a skeptical Congress on Washington's and Beijing's strategy of mutual engagement.

The Chinese, meanwhile, are outraged by the U.S.-led bombing of Yugoslavia, which they regard as an illegal intervention in a sovereign country with worrying implications for their own determination to keep control of Tibet, whose indigenous inhabitants, like Kosovo's Albanians, would probably prefer independence.

Top Chinese leaders seriously considered postponing the trip until the bombing stopped. But they decided to proceed, a sign of how much China still values good relations with the United States, considered vital to its own modernization.

Mr. Zhu leaves Beijing on Tuesday for a day in Los Angeles before continuing to Washington and then Denver, Chicago and New York, finishing in Boston on April 14.

Although his agenda is weightier than he had expected, Mr. Zhu still plans to spend a day discussing the environment with Vice President Al Gore — part of his original agenda of bolstering economic ties with the United States and developing projects to fight China's severe environmental pollution.

But negotiations for entry to the World Trade Organization have stalled because China could not agree to open its markets as broadly as the United States demanded — meaning there will be no major agreements to sign during the visit.

Mr. Zhu is bound to run into U.S. criticism of China's human rights record. Chinese and Western political analysts in Beijing are unanimous that he cannot waver in defense of China's record, in particular now that the United States has announced it will sponsor a resolution condemning China's rights record at a United Nations meeting in April in Geneva.

Any departure from the Communist Party line would undermine the prime minister's power, political analysts say. This is espe-

cially true because unlike other top leaders, he has not developed a powerful personal constituency within the Communist Party.

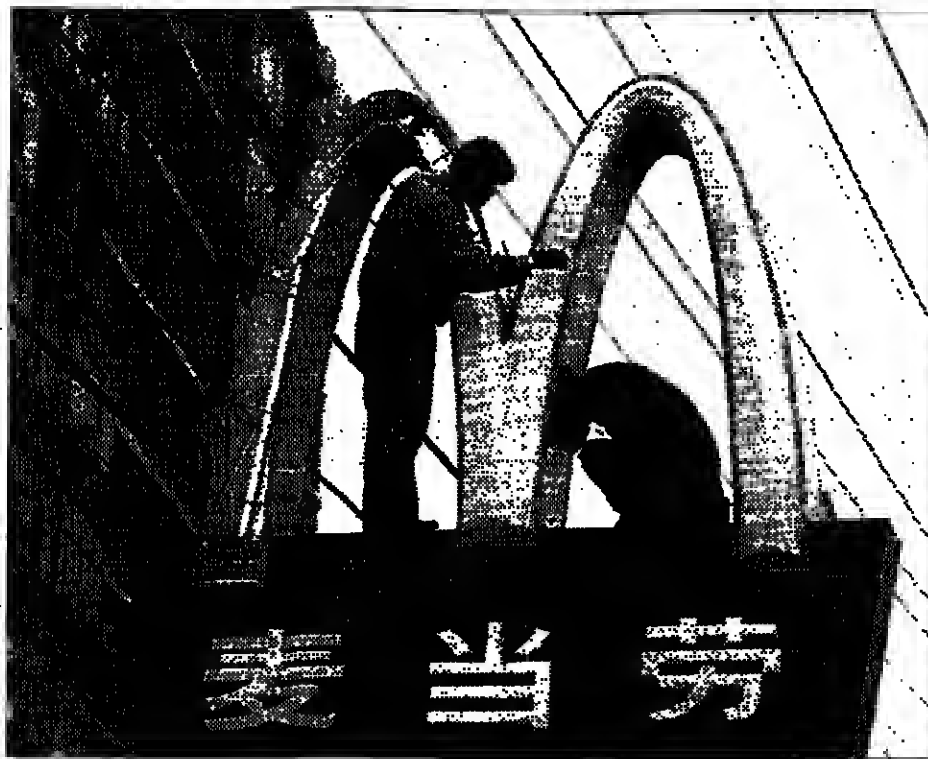
Still, if any Chinese leader can carry off such a prickly trip, it is Mr. Zhu. A former mayor of Shanghai, where he courted foreign investors, Mr. Zhu knows the West and talks with an absence of Marxist cant. His spectacular rise to power, after years as a political outcast, seemed based on competence alone, and he is respected in China for his intellect and practical, serious style.

He is a smart leader with great personal charisma and is very adept at using it to sell his messages," said Zhang Xiaojin, a professor of international politics at People's University in Beijing. "This trip comes at a critical time, and what he does could have an important impact on the long-term development of the Chinese-American relationship."

In his only public statements on the American visit, at a rare news conference on March 15, Mr. Zhu said, "The goal of my visit is to tell you the truth and also to let you vent your anger and voice your complaints."

"It is also to resume the good momentum toward building a constructive strategic partnership," he said.

Rightly or wrongly, the Chinese feel terribly misunderstood in the United States. In the view of many Chinese, Mr. Zhu and President Jiang Zemin are bravely steering the country through a painful transition toward a market-oriented economy. Those Chinese, unlike the dissidents whose cause is important to many in the West, see China as a country where the rule of law is expanding and people



Workers in Beijing spitting up the golden arches sign at a McDonald's restaurant.

have unprecedented freedom in their personal lives, if not in politics. And Taiwan, people here note, is internationally recognized as an inalienable part of China.

So why are Americans so stringent about China's entry to the World Trade Organization? Why so much fuss about the arrest of some disruptive radicals, and why the threat to create an open military alliance with Taiwan? "Zhu Rongji will try to get the American people to understand the real situation in China," said Xiong Zhiyong, dean of the

Foreign Affairs College in Beijing.

However, Mr. Zhu and other Chinese leaders tend to underestimate the depth of U.S. concerns over rights, trade and foreign policy, said David Shambaugh, a China expert at George Washington University and the Brookings Institution in Washington. Instead, they tend to attribute criticism to a small cabal of enemies.

"They don't understand that the broad masses see China through suspicious eyes," Mr. Shambaugh said.

Wife of Anwar Forms an Opposition Party

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

KUALA LUMPUR — The wife of the opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim formed a new political party Sunday and called for opposition groups to unite to topple the government of Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad.

Azizah Ismail and a roster of the nation's leading political activists joined forces to form the National Justice Party.

Mr. Anwar will not formally join his wife's party but will "support" it in a strategic bid to group opposition forces throughout the country into one movement, party officials said.

"Political parties and nongovernmental organizations must work together and set aside their differences in order to free Malaysia from the continuing stranglehold of crisis and oppression," Mrs. Azizah told about 2,000 supporters, opposition politicians and journalists. "My aim is to return Malaysia's morality

and good name, which has been damaged by the authoritarian iron fist of Prime Minister Mahathir," she said to loud applause and cries for "Reformasi," or "Reforms."

Mr. Mahathir, 73, is the president of the dominant United Malays National Organization. He is also the chairman of the ruling National Front coalition and has governed Malaysia for 17 years.

After Mr. Anwar was dismissed as deputy prime minister and arrested last September, he said his wife would carry forward his campaign to reform politics in Malaysia.

Mr. Anwar, 51, faces 10 counts of corruption and sodomy. He has denied all the charges, saying they are part of a political plot to discredit him. A High Court judge will deliver a verdict on four of the charges on April 14.

The government's term does not expire until April next year but there is speculation it

will call an election amid signs of economic recovery.

The new party hopes that Mr. Anwar's popularity among opposition groups will help to form a collective front able to wrest power from Mr. Mahathir's governing coalition.

"The most important challenge facing us is to work together with the opposition and others," said Chandra Muzaffar, the new party's deputy vice president and an outspoken critic of Mr. Mahathir.

Mr. Anwar, once Malaysia's heir apparent, "is the inspiration behind this and will continue to give us guidance," Mr. Muzaffar added.

Mr. Anwar's decision not to become an official member of the new party was seen as a tactic giving the group more flexibility in any talks with power brokers in the United Malays National Organization, which has led Malaysia's governing coalitions since independence in 1957. (AP, AFP)

BRIEFLY

Rogue Trader to Be Released?

HONG KONG — Singapore plans to release Nicholas Leeson, the trader who was imprisoned after being convicted of fraud and forgery in connection with the 1995 collapse of Barings Bank, a Hong Kong newspaper reported Sunday.

The South China Sunday Morning Post quoted the Singapore minister of home affairs, Wong Kan Seng, as saying Mr. Leeson, a Briton, would be released July 3, nearly three years before the completion of his six and a half-year sentence. Mr. Leeson has colon cancer. (AP)

7 Spy Boats Tied to Pyongyang

TOKYO — North Korea sent seven spy boats into Japanese waters last month, including the two that were chased by Japanese warships, a newspaper said Sunday. Japanese radar detected the boats March 21 in the Sea of Japan off Noto Peninsula, the Tokyo Shimbun quoted defense agency sources as saying. Five of the vessels left Japanese waters within the day and sailed toward the Korean Peninsula, but the other two remained in the area, the paper said. (AFP)

Thai Murder Suspect Arrested

BANGKOK — The alleged mastermind behind the killing of Michael Wansley, an Australian auditor, has surrendered to Thai police, officials said.

Pradit Siriviriyakul, owner of a sugar mill in northern Utharadit Province, surrendered Saturday after a warrant was issued for his arrest, said Prasarn Wongyai, the deputy commander of the national police.

Mr. Pradit was interrogated and then flown to the central province of Nakhon Sawan, where Mr. Wansley was slain. Mr. Wansley, a senior partner at international consultancy Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and a former chairman of the Australian Red Cross, was shot to death March 10 by a gunman on a motorcycle. (AFP)

North Korean Sailors Returned

SEOUL — Two North Korean survivors from a sunken ship were handed over to Pyongyang diplomats Sunday from a South Korean ship moored in the Sri Lankan capital of Colombo, officials said.

The rescued pair were taken aboard the 52,000-ton Hymndai Duke after the South Korean container ship collided with the North Korean freighter Manpok on Wednesday in the Indian Ocean. Despite an Indian air and sea search, there was no sign of the Manpok's other 37 crew members. (AFP)

For the Record

Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad of Malaysia was being treated for a lung infection after entering the country's National Heart Institute on Friday. Mr. Mahathir, 73, was in stable condition Sunday and expected to stay at the institute a few more days. (AP)

Dengue fever killed 383 people in Vietnam last year, nearly 70 percent more than a year earlier. (AP)

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Castro's Newest Foe: Rising Crime

Need and Opportunity Drive More Cubans to Illegal Pursuits

By Mireya Navarro
New York Times Service

HAVANA — Never mind that one robber had second thoughts and was replaced at the last minute or that another did not shoot as planned. Or that the bounty was only \$6,000 instead of the expected \$30,000, or that the whole gang of seven men was arrested in less than three weeks.

In the annals of crime in revolutionary Cuba, the assault on a government armored van in daylight last December during which five people were wounded was a botched but spectacular act of boldness.

"I first heard the shots, then I saw the wounded people go by," said Marta Acosta, 59, who lives across the street from La Arcada, the cluster of dollar stores in Guanabacoa municipality that was the scene of a shoot-out between one of the thieves and two armored van workers picking up the shopping center's receipts. "It was shocking."

Indeed, the high-profile caper was the kind that government officials used to associate more with the ills of American society than with their highly policed island.

But today Cuba, which for decades was immune to the high crime rates of more open societies, is itself grappling with a rising tide of common crime that has swelled in the last year.

The rise is taking place as Cubans struggle with hardships caused by the collapse of their Soviet patron 10 years ago, Communist Party policies and more than three decades of economic embargo by the United States.

Necessity now leads scores of people to steal from workplaces, to earn dollars as illegal drivers or prostitutes and to join a thriving black market. In rural areas, livestock theft is such a problem, government officials said, that some people take their cows into their homes at night.

But the problem has also been fueled by the opportunity that has arrived here along with increasing numbers of foreign tourists as the government has slowly tried to open the island to outsiders.

President Fidel Castro himself sounded the alarm about crime in a speech three months ago to the Revolutionary National Police, associating it with a creeping moral laxity and Cuba's opening in dollars, tourists and foreign investment in the mid-1990s.

He noted that those were the very sectors endangered by crime. Two Italian tourists were fatally shot last September during a robbery, even though handguns are not prevalent and legal access to them is tightly restricted.

"In the fight against crime we're also defending the prestige of the country and its economy," Mr. Castro said. The rise in crime discourages tourism, aside from the damage it causes to 11 million citizens and the uneasiness it produces.

In response to the crime wave, the government has stationed police officers on almost every corner in Havana's tourist areas and in February stiffened penalties for crimes ranging from drug trafficking and pimping to armed robbery and the illegal trade in beef.

The deployment of special police of-

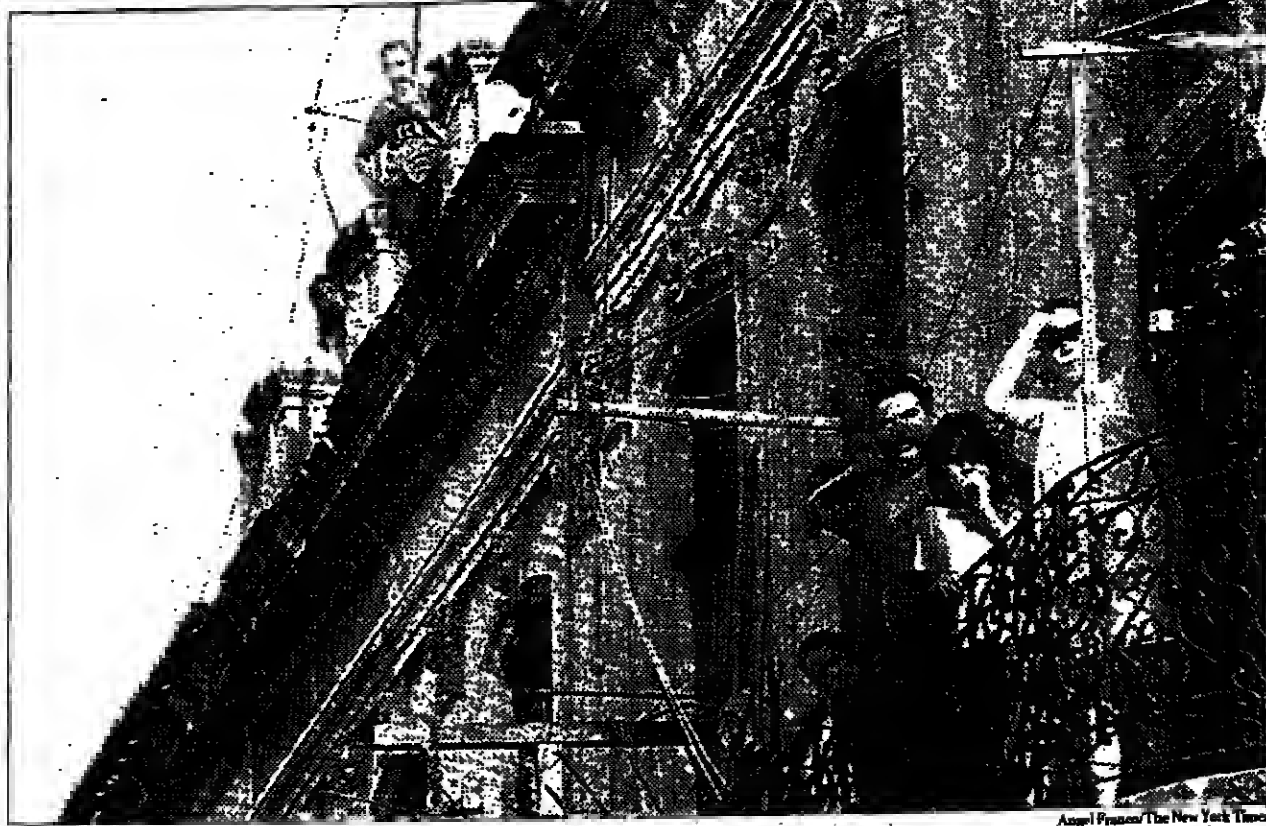
ficers, distinguished by their black berets, has given parts of Havana, where officials say 80 percent of the island's crime takes place, the feel of a city under siege. In some areas the young officers are often seen checking the identification cards of Cubans, writing tickets for some infraction or giving instructions to drivers, cyclists and pedestrians through loudspeakers.

The crackdown, which government officials say is already working, has been welcomed by many Cubans and foreigners who have been victims of pickpockets and burglars. But the heightened vigilance is also stifling what some Cubans say is their only way to make ends meet.

What is most notable has been the virtual disappearance of prostitutes from the streets after they have either been sent back home to the countryside or interned in "rehabilitation centers," work camps where repeat offenders receive counseling while putting in as much as four years of agricultural and other labor. While not illegal here or penalized as a criminal offense, prostitution is regarded as "antisocial" and a magnet for related crime such as drug use.

In his speech, Mr. Castro, disclosing rarely published crime information, said the use of Cuba as a transshipment point for Colombian cocaine destined for the United States and Europe "persists."

He announced new, stricter penalties for drug trafficking, which this year were made to range from 15 years in prison to death. As an offshoot of the trafficking, there has also been increased drug use in Cuba, Mr. Castro said.



A Cuban police officer monitoring a Good Friday procession from an Old Havana rooftop as others watched.

The Cuban leader also noted a loosening of morals. He exoriated Cubans who drive tourists around and rent out rooms illegally, police officers who accept bribes, parents and pimps who induce young women to sell their bodies and those who steal merchandise from their jobs.

But American and other Western officials say more controls only invite more lawbreaking because illegal activity is the only way many Cubans who do not get dollar remittances from family

members in the United States can complement their meager state salaries. Most of those salaries are paid in a local currency that is no longer accepted for many transactions that now take place in dollars.

A 31-year-old driver with a wife and two young sons who said he earned 260 pesos a month, or \$13, making bricks, said he could make \$40 or more driving a foreigner around for the day.

Some Western officials said that the anti-crime measures and policing went

beyond what was warranted and served to complement the increased anti-American statements and a law, also passed in February, to rein in the small but growing number of dissidents and independent journalists.

"There was an impetus for more opening within Cuba and from foreign countries that Castro feels went too far," a Western diplomat said. "He's now aiming at telling us, 'No, we stay where we are.' That's rather unrealistic. The train is already moving."

Sectarian Violence Claims More Lives in Indonesia

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

AMBON, Indonesia — Christians and Muslims fought with spears and machetes Sunday in the far eastern islands of Indonesia, as the death toll from several days of communal bloodshed climbed to 34, officials and witnesses said.

The regent of the South East Moluccas, Husein Rahayana, said Sunday that hundreds of armed Muslims and Christians were still fighting in villages on the outskirts of Tual, the main town in the remote Kai Islands group.

"The fighting broke out this morning, but I can't tell you whether any deaths were involved," he said from the islands, about 3,300 kilometers (2,000 miles) east of Jakarta.

The Moluccas military commander, Colonel Karel Ralaha, told reporters Saturday that 25 people had died in the fighting between Muslims and Christians around the islands, but residents and witnesses put the death toll at 34.

Already this year, more than 200 people have died in communal violence in the province, mostly in and around the capital of Ambon, several hundred kilometers northwest of the Kai Islands.

Christians make up 75 percent of the population in the regency of South East

Moluccas, and Muslims the rest. The area, at the eastern extremity of the violence-wracked Maluku Province, is also called the Moluccas, and is known to history as the Spice Islands.

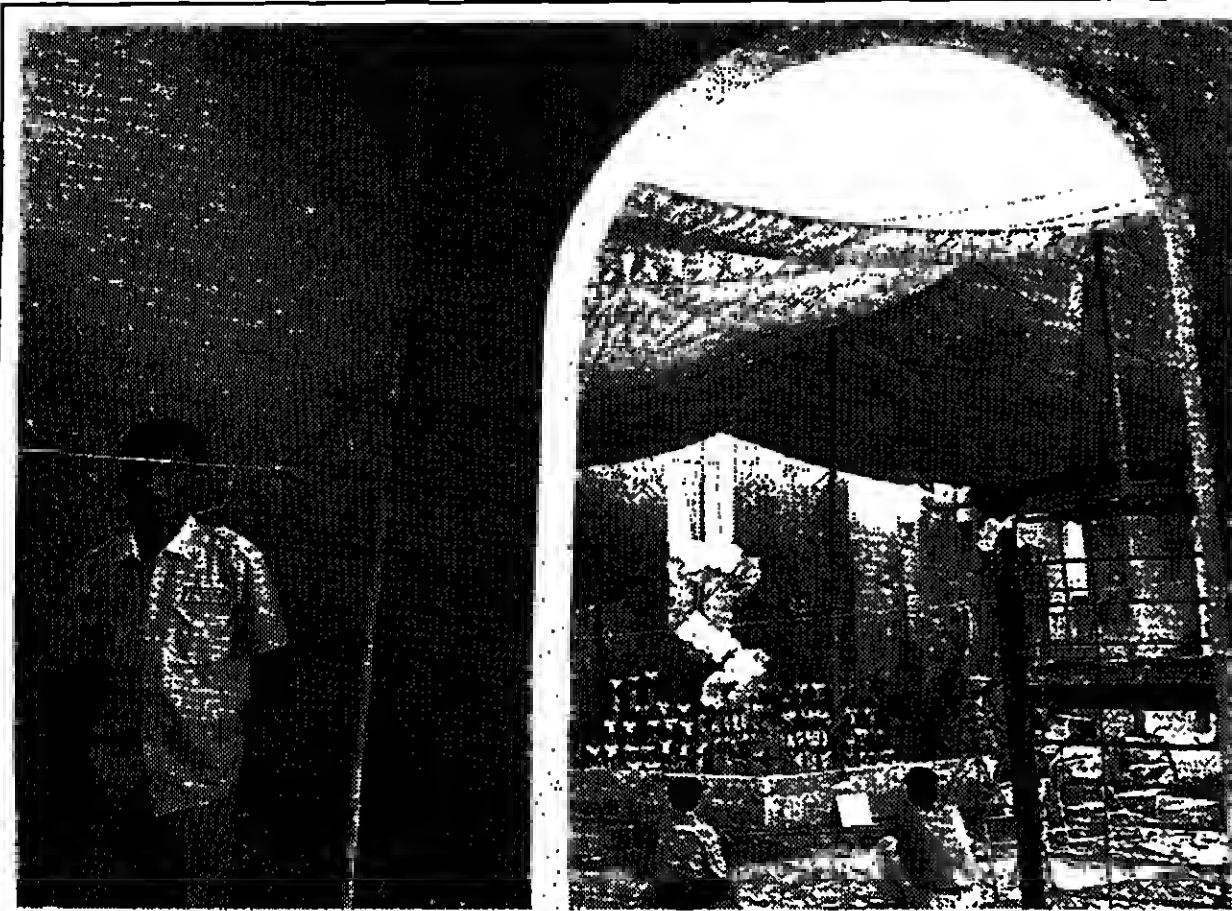
Mr. Rahayana said that hundreds of police officers and soldiers had been assigned to halt the clashes Sunday.

Earlier Sunday, two bodies with severe lacerations were found in a ditch in Tual, and a local hospital said two people had died from gunshot wounds.

The unrest first broke out Wednesday, triggered by a land dispute. It peaked Saturday when police officers and soldiers fired volleys of rubber bullets to disperse hundreds of Christian and Muslim combatants in the Kei Besar district, leaving, at least, 43 wounded, witnesses and officials said.

Rioting broke out in Kei Besar again on Friday when Christian mobs attacked Muslim worshippers at a mosque during noon prayers, forcing hundreds of Muslims to flee into the forest.

The province has been just one of several flash points of violence that have ignited across the sprawling island nation in the past year as ethnic, religious and social tensions boiled over amid the worst economic and political crisis in decades. (Reuters, AP)



Christians celebrating Easter in the remains of their church at Ketapang in Jakarta. The burning of the church in November led to Muslim-Christian riots that have killed more than 200 people in the Moluccas.

TOKYO: Older Generation Faces Double Language Barrier in Trying to Learn English-Based Computer Terms

Continued from Page 1

When it comes time to use the restroom, the less cosmopolitan face similar challenges. One club writes the words "Gentlemen" and "Ladies" in English calligraphy so curved and fancy that almost all guests look a bit tentative making their choice for the first time, and patrons of restaurant toilets often must rely on the typical Japanese color coding of blue for men and red for women.

"No one knows what bathroom to go into from the signs," said Hisako Sekine, an elderly housewife. "You just have to look at the pictures, or else see if one is blue and the other red."

The linguistic challenge is perhaps most pronounced in computers. In the 19th century, Japan tended to come up with traditional ways of writing new products or concepts, so that a telephone was dubbed *denwa*, or "electronic talk." But while China continues in that approach, terming a computer an "electronic brain," Japan in recent decades has shifted almost exclusively to simply transcribing the sounds of foreign words, so that computer in Japanese is *konpyuuta*.

This has some advantages for intellectuals who travel abroad and communicate in English as well. But it is a bit overwhelming for the person who sits down at a *kihoudo* (keyboard) for the first time and is told to move the *mausu* (mouse) and *daburu-kurikku* (double-click) or the *aikon* (icon).

"I look at a computer book, and I can't even figure out how to get started," fretted Kimi Oishi, a 74-year-old woman who had joined Tokyo's *Graffiti Posukon saron* (personal computer salon) and was clutching a *konpyuuta manyuaru*.

"Look at this," she added. "Manyuaru. I don't even know what that is. What's a manyuaru? I don't even know how to begin."

A *manyuaru* is a manual. And since there is already a word in Japanese meaning the same thing, *manyuaru* reflects the tendency to adopt foreign words even when there are perfectly good ones available in Japanese.

Still, Mrs. Oishi said in some cases she felt more comfortable with computer-word transcriptions such as *mausu* than with translations such as *nezumi*, the Japanese word for a mouse or a rat.

"In Japan, the image of a *nezumi* is rather dirty," Mrs. Oishi said primly. "So I think for that, it is better to use the

English word." Perhaps the lesson for computer users elsewhere is that when they are ready to smash their computers for generating error messages, they should realize that it could be worse: They could be *toraburushiyuutingu* (trouble-shooting) using the Japanese version of Microsoft Windows and getting *herupu* (help) like the one beginning: "What to do if the *foiru* (file) does not appear in the correct *doraiibu* (drive) and *foruda* (folder) of the open *fairu* (file) *daiarogubokkusu* (dialogue box)."

Despite the image in the West of Japan as a country unusually resistant to foreign currents, Japan has long been an eager importer of foreign terms. In serious discourse, about half of the ex-

pressions are originally Chinese, some imported more than 1,000 years ago.

Western words came drifting in as well and are usually written in a separate alphabet called *katakana* or sometimes directly in Roman letters. Thus a single sentence of written Japanese can be a mixture of four writing systems: Chinese characters, *katakana*, Roman letters and a Japanese alphabet called *hiragana*.

The adoption of foreign words often seems aimed not at facilitating communication but at obstructing it. Just as others might show off by using Latin ad infinitum or using French words to demonstrate their savoir-faire, Japanese often use new foreign words because they have the *appiru* (appeal) that not

everyone understands them. This such appeal of foreign words has accentuated the generation *gapu* (gap) in Japan, for young people in the cities enthusiastically adopt new words that leave the elderly befuddled.

"When my grandkids are speaking their weird way, I don't understand it, but I don't mind," said Fumiko Kawaguchi, an 87-year-old woman living in western Tokyo. "But if they want to talk to me, then I tell them that they'll have to speak Japanese."

Despite all the foreign words, there is no political opposition to them, and most people seem to accept them as useful — even if a growing number of elderly people feel left out.

"Old people and young people may

live together in the same house, but they are living in different worlds," mused Matome Ito, a 64-year-old porcelain salesman in a small shop in Tokyo. "For young people, the whole lifestyle is all American now. Their food is different, and they can't even use chopsticks right any more. Even the smell of the houses is different: The homes of older people smell of fish and miso soup, and the kids' houses smell of America."

Mr. Ito paused and sighed and, perhaps getting carried away, added sorrowfully: "Young people are so different now, even their faces have changed. They're like Westerners — they don't have chins anymore. I think maybe it's partly because they don't chew on things like dried squid any more."

CHINA: Bridges and Buildings Collapse as Corrupt Officials Profit From Spending Boom

Continued from Page 1

triggered by the Asian financial crisis, China's leaders have ordered state-run banks to pump billions of dollars into the economy to create jobs and growth.

Much of the cash has gone into infrastructure projects. Last year, the budget for highway construction jumped 50 percent, for example, and this year it is due to rise 62 percent.

While many economists back the Keynesian idea of infusion to boost growth, they fear that because money is being thrown into shoddy projects, many structures will crumble in the next few years.

There is no real process for local governments to tender contracts. And there is little accountability once projects are under way. Contracts are usually handed out to relatives or friends of local Communist Party leaders and then subcontracted to inefficient state-owned companies with little knowledge of safety regulations. Money is obtained by pressuring local banks to make loans. Then a good portion of that money is misused.

At about the same time Qijiang county was building the Rainbow Bridge, for example, the local government was constructing a country club called the Garden of the Sighing Pines on the outskirts of town. There, local officials could meet privately and be served by scantily clad women, play tennis, sing in well-appointed karaoke dens and lounge around a pool, sources in the county said.



The remains of the badly built Rainbow Bridge in Qijiang, China, which collapsed on Jan. 4, killing 40 people.

The Chinese newspaper Southern Weekend estimated that the club had cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to build. Local sources said money from the Rainbow Bridge project was diverted to build the private getaway.

The flimsiness of these projects, and other indicators such as thousands of empty buildings, are raising a broader question: How can China make efficient use of capital to prime its economic pump when most funds are still moved around the country by political decree or in other ways contrary to market rules?

One of the biggest problems is that there is no real mechanism for debating the wisdom of the mad rush to improve the infrastructure or to build so excessively. In the early 1990s, debate was stymied on the Three Gorges project, as it has been on subsequent schemes. And when problems occur, they are usually papered over until it is too late.

In 1996, for example, soon after the Rainbow Bridge was completed, a huge bang rocked it one day. Workers found cracks in steel arches that held the bridge to the river banks. Nothing was done.

Even before that, an experienced welder had written to the county government pointing out flaws in the welding work, but he was ignored. Last Dec. 28, a construction department official wrote to both the county government and the party committee suggesting that the bridge be closed. He also was ignored. A week later, disaster struck.

When it did, the Qijiang county government sought to cover up the incident. The government tried to buy off families of the dead. But relatives protested, and Chinese journalists flocked to the town.

BRIEFLY

Nazareth Is Scene Of Easter Rioting

JERUSALEM — Tensions between Muslims and Christians in the Galilee town of Nazareth erupted into riots Sunday in which at least 27 people were hurt, the Israeli police said.

The authorities briefly closed the main road in the town where the Bible says Jesus lived. Police officers tried to break up clashes over a disputed tract near the Basilica of the Annunciation, the holiest Christian site in the Arab city, a police representative said.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Holy Land, Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah, appealed in an Easter message for "prudence and calm" to ease tensions between Christians and Muslims in Nazareth and in Palestinian-governed Bethlehem.

The dispute centers on competing plans for a site in the town. The police said Muslims wanted to build a mosque near the grave of the nephew of their 12th-century leader Saladin, who ousted the Crusaders from the Holy Land, while the city government and the church wanted to build a square to mark the start of Christianity's third millennium. (Reuters)

Paraguay Seeks Arrest of General

ASUNCION, Paraguay — A judge has asked Interpol to apprehend General Lino Oviedo, the convicted coup leader who is now in exile in Argentina, for his role in the deaths of six protesters here last month.

General Oviedo fled Paraguay a week ago, just before the resignation of President Raul Cubas Grau, who fired the former army chief in August from a 10-year prison sentence for leading a failed coup in 1996. Mr. Cubas has since left Paraguay and was granted political asylum in Brazil.

Foreign Minister Miguel Saguer said the parents of one of the slain protesters had filed a complaint against the general. The six men were shot by snipers as more than 200 other people were wounded during demonstrations March 26 against Mr. Cubas and General Oviedo. The demonstrators blamed them for the assassination of Vice President Luis Maria Argana. (Reuters)

Mubarak Ends a Law That Freed Rapists

CAIRO — President Hosni Mubarak has decreed an end to a widely criticized law that allowed rapists to be freed from prison if they married their victims, an Egyptian government newspaper reported Sunday.

Al-Ahram quoted the minister of justice, Farouk Seif Nase, as saying that the old law had "encouraged the criminals to perpetrate their crime instead of deterring them."

Parents of rape victims have used the law, which dates to 1904, as a way to regain family honor through marriage of a daughter considered tainted. Rapists have used it to escape punishment. Some lawmakers fought changing the law, arguing that it was in the victims' interest because otherwise their marriage prospects were slim.

The cabinet endorsed Mr. Mubarak's decree Saturday. Al-Ahram said, and sent it to Parliament for ratification. Such votes are usually unanimous in a Parliament dominated by the president's National Democratic Party.

Government statistics about rape are not available, and human-rights advocates say most victims do not report the crime because of the stigma associated with it. In some rural areas, rape victims have been killed by a male relative to restore family honor. Advocates of changing the law received strong support from Egypt's top clerics, who have decreed that such marriages do not meet the standards of Islam. (AP)

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Balkan Misery Worsens / The Humanitarian Situation Is Terrible

Dodging the Inferno: Some Serbs Elect to Flee Milosevic's War

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — Vladimir, like an unknown number of young Serbs, is on the run.

A 29-year-old computer whiz, he received a mobilization order Friday to report to the Yugoslav Army. Instead, he has left home, spending nights in different apartments and wrestling with an excruciating moral and existential choice.

"This is the biggest dilemma I have," he said Sunday in a quiet conversation in central Belgrade. "On the one hand, I think I should defend my country, which is being attacked; on the other, I'm frightened that I will die for this regime."

He is not proud of himself, he said. But while wrestling with his decision, reminiscent of a generation of Americans during the Vietnam War, he is not making himself available to the army. "I can always tell them I was away in the country for the weekend," he said, kicking at a pebble with extraordinary viciousness. "I really don't know what to do."

A friend of Zarko, a lawyer, said the 30-year-old had received a mobilization notice. But when asked directly by a

foreigner, Zarko said he had not. Still, he has left his own apartment to live at the house of his wife's uncle. "I'm doing everything I can not to go into the army," he said at one of Belgrade's many cafes. "Everyone is trying not to fight. No one I know wants to die for Slobodan Milosevic," the Yugoslav president, "or for this wretched Kosovo."

An artist, 33, has sent his family abroad. "It's too late for me," he said, noting that under Serbia's state of war, all men between the ages of 18 and 60 are forbidden to travel outside the country. They cannot be granted exit visas, receive new passports or renew their old ones. While no general mobilization has been declared, reserve units are being called up as specialists are required. Men who served in radio and communications units, for instance, are being ordered to report for duty, some Serbs say.

Official Serbian state television has shown glowing reports of young men responding to mobilization or draft orders, and it is likely that a large majority does so.

In general, patriotism is high in what appear to be the early days of a long struggle of stamina and nerve with NATO, and there is a lot of outrage about

the extension of NATO's bombing this weekend to central Belgrade and at least ostensibly civilian targets like bridges, power plants and factories.

On Sunday, for example, on the pedestrian shopping street of Knez Mihajlova, near the trashed U.S. and French cultural centers and the British Council building, passers-by knelt at an immense strip of unrolled canvas, perhaps a yard wide and 100 yards long. Every few yards, there was a pot of white paint and a brush, and people stopped to dab their favorite patriotic and anti-NATO slogans on the canvas.

Still, war-time military courts have been established to court-martial those who do not report to their units immediately, and prison terms for draft-dodging can range from one to 20 years.

The artist, who asked to be called Sauek, said he was part of a group of about 20 close friends who exchange information about safe houses. Each of those 20 people is in contact with another 20 friends, he said.

"People go to other addresses and hide," he said. "They move from place to place." Mostly, they stay in Belgrade. "It's the only terrain they know, and it's always best to hide in a big city."

With Belgrade's population estimated now at some 2 million people, swollen by Serbian refugees from Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina, many people are not registered with the police. Similarly, a number of apartments are either empty or are still registered to distant relatives or family members who are dead.

"People are afraid to go to small villages outside of Belgrade, even where they have vacation houses or apartments," Sauek said. "There is small-town patriotism and small-town curiosity, and it is easier to be caught."

But all these choices are difficult, Sauek continued. He described two friends with dual Serbian-French citizenship who are both dodging mobilization and yet refuse to leave the country, even with their French passports.

On Saturday night, he said, he told them to go to an empty apartment in Zemun, a small and rather arty municipality of greater Belgrade along the Danube that was the last outpost of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The apartment is new and unregistered. "It doesn't exist in official papers," he said.

On the other hand, it is uncomfortably close to an important air force building. "So either they can be a target of the

military police" or of the U.S. cruise missiles. "You have to balance one target against another."

And why don't they go to France? Sauek laughed. "It might strike you as strange," he said. "But they're very patriotic. They don't want to leave their friends and their country now, while it is under attack. That would be a betrayal."

The same is true of himself, he said. His wife pushed him to leave with her, but he refused. "I don't want to abandon my friends or this city, which I love."

Sauek had done his army service in the 1980s, before Mr. Milosevic began "the wars of secession" that have engulfed the former Yugoslavia in blood and flame. "I did it and I hated it," he said. "I hated the look of the uniform, and I hated the feel of the gun." When he finished his 15-month tour, he, like many others, never reported his address to the Defense Ministry office in each municipality, as he was obligated to do.

"No one I know ever reported," he said. "They have the old address, where I used to live, and there they will say, 'Oh, he's still abroad.'" In fact, he said, he had returned to Belgrade to take part in the massive pro-democracy demonstrations of 1996 and 1997. "I came

home to watch Milosevic fall," he said bitterly. "Unfortunately, I'm still waiting."

Like many of the people he knows, while admittedly on the fringe of "ordinary society," he said, "we'd like to see him hanging." At the same time, he said, "If the guys from NATO come here we will shoot them."

Ever since Tito preached a Yugoslav self-sufficiency and nonalignment between East and West, "we were all raised on this paradigm of resisting external aggression, whether it came from the United States or Russia," he said. "And now this is the paradigm we prepared for."

The generation of men 28 and under have a different experience. In general, they had to fight in Mr. Milosevic's wars, which Serbia lost, and many of them hated the fratricidal horrors of the experience.

This war against NATO is crazy, said one draft-dodger, a medical student named Dejan who served in Bosnia. "They sent me an invitation to join the army reserve, but I'm not at home and my parents are not there, either." Instead, he said, "I live like a refugee, changing places every other night."

Kosovar Rebel Leader Pleads for NATO Weapons

By Carlotta Gall
New York Times Service

SKOPE, Macedonia — A top commander of the Kosovo Liberation Army has made an impassioned plea for NATO countries to supply weapons and ammunition to his guerrilla force, which he said has been hampered in its losing battle to defend Kosovo's ethnic Albanians from Serbian forces.

The commander, who goes by the name Drini, said in an interview that his forces desperately needed military supplies if they were to maintain their resistance and defend civilians trapped in parts of Kosovo. He also called for NATO to conduct air drops of food to the ethnic Albanian population stranded in Kosovo.

"If they gave us the military support, we could do much more," Mr. Drini said, speaking from central Kosovo by

telephone Saturday. "We are doing tactical maneuvers to try and save the population from the Serb army. But where we are using a unit of 50 to 60 men, they are up against a whole division, with tanks, artillery and infantry."

Despite NATO bombing, the Serbian air force is still putting up MIG fighter jets to bomb villages and is making extensive use of tanks and heavy artillery, Mr. Drini said.

He said bad weather had prevented NATO bombers from working with full effectiveness. "Even God turned his back on the Albanians," he said. "For 12 days there have been no clear skies, and we have not had air strikes."

Washington and its NATO allies, which have themselves acknowledged that the weather has seriously hampered attacks by allied jets, have so far dismissed the idea of supplying the guerrilla army. Mr. Drini said his forces were now

fighting on several fronts around Kosovo and coming under heavy pressure as ammunition and food were running low. Supply lines from Albania have been cut, he said, and the food situation is so desperate that the Kosovo Liberation Army is having to use its rations to feed displaced civilians.

"The humanitarian situation is terrible," he said. "People are under the open skies, and it is now raining. There is a lack of food, and we are giving out our reserves."

Mr. Drini said his forces had come across three separate incidents of mass killings of civilians by Serbian forces in recent days. He said 150 people, including women and children, had been found killed in Izbica, in the northern Drenica region northeast of the Kosovo capital, Pristina. He also said 70 had been killed in the village of Pusto Selo and 34 people in Juovic.



An Italian humanitarian aid worker carrying an ill refugee child to a first aid tent Sunday in a makeshift camp in Kukës, northern Albania.

REFUGEES: Kosovars Find New Field of Horrors in Macedonia

Continued from Page 1

One family held up a huge sign made out of cardboard that said, "Help," in English.

Aid agencies said 11 people died Friday night, and 14 more died Saturday night, mostly the old and very young, many of them suffering from exposure. Local journalists reported several babies had been born in the camp. One of the mothers died in childbirth Saturday, they said.

Hepatitis and pneumonia are already raging through the sprawling camp, where people are sleeping in the open under the rain or beneath makeshift shelters of blankets and plastic. There are no toilets, and people are using the nearby river for washing and drinking.

The scene of thousands of people camped on the hillside and across the fields is a messy and noisy jumble. Smoke drifted from hundreds of fires. Men squatted down beside their plastic shelters, others were crushed together around the single white tent registering refugees. The occasional person who tried to slip out was shoved back hard by police officers or soldiers.

More are trapped on the other side of the border, unable to pass since Macedonian authorities effectively closed the border. A long tail of cars snakes back up the road. Many refugees have abandoned their cars, and stand massed by the immigration booths on the road waiting to come through.

They face Macedonian police, who have used riot sticks against the crowd to keep them back. The Macedonian government denies closing the border but is adamant that it cannot absorb any more refugees for reasons of both economic and political stability.

The Macedonian authorities have also prevented foreign aid organizations from working in the camp. Local aid workers were doing the job, driving into the camp on tractors laden with food and drink.

They stopped at intervals and threw provisions into the crowd in random fashion.

Foreign aid organizations have been kept out.

There is a single medical tent to care for the sick, and it is clearly overwhelmed. Patients lay and sat around on the ground outside, mostly old people unable to move on their own. A lone figure, in white medical coat and surgical mask and gloves, hurried through the mud searching for a patient.

The authorities have begun transferring refugees out to other camps, piling them into buses in haphazard fashion. One busload was taken to the refugee camp of Ragushe, further along the Serbian border.

Surrounded by wire fencing and guarded by Macedonian police, the refugees were confused and fearful.

"We thought we were moving away from an aggressor, and we find something very similar to the Serb police," said Hazen Dakaj, a 52-year-old refugee. He stood by the wire fence, greeting his family who were stuck inside the camp.

In the chaos of boarding the buses in the middle of the night, three of the 14 members of his family had been separated and lost.

"They brought us in buses here when they saw people dying," he said. "They did not care if we were together or not."

In the face of Macedonia's reluctance to take in the refugees, NATO countries were gearing up to take over responsibility for them Sunday. Turkey, Ger-

many and Norway have pledged to take in 36,000 refugees between them, a spokeswoman at the prime minister's office in Skopje said.

Humanitarian flights were due to arrive Sunday with food and supplies for the refugees and would fly the first loads of refugees out immediately.

Meanwhile just down the road from

KOSOVO: NATO Steps Up Military Action and Tries to Cope With Desperate Refugees

Continued from Page 1

United States of being viewed as the introduction of ground troops. Putting a battalion of the Apache into Albania would require a protective unit of about 2,000 soldiers.

But Mr. Bacon said deployment of the Apaches was "absolutely not" a step toward deployment of NATO ground troops. "This is pure and simple an expansion of the air operation," he said.

So far, Serbian forces have operated in Kosovo with near-impunity, with NATO leaders explaining that bad weather had prevented ground attacks because pilots feared hitting civilian targets by mistake. But the adverse weather illustrated the problems caused by NATO's decision to launch its offensive on the basis of a battle plan prepared last year for an easier summer offensive, officials said.

The need for reinforcements also showed that U.S. and NATO officials had been mistaken in insisting, as the offensive began March 24, that they had more than enough air power in the region to carry out a sustained campaign.

■ **A Second Front: Refugees**

Michael Gordon of The New York Times reported from Brussels:

As it pressed ahead with its bombardment of Yugoslavia, NATO moved on Sunday to assume responsibility for hundreds of thousands of Kosovo refugees.

NATO announced plans to fly almost 100,000 of the approximately 350,000 refugees to Europe and North America. The alliance is also mounting emergency relief efforts in Macedonia and Albania, where sides of hungry and desperate refugees have overwhelmed aid workers.

The refugee problem has, in effect, become a second front for the alliance, which is grinding itself for weeks of bombing. General Wesley Clark, the NATO Supreme Allied Commander, asserted that the flood of refugees was part of a deliberate strategy by the President Milosevic, to destabilize the Balkans.

"It is a calculated, deliberate, arranged, preplanned humanitarian catastrophe," he said Saturday at the alliance's military headquarters. "It serves two purposes: Not only does it change the demographics in Kosovo, but it helps to destabilize Macedonia."

Although NATO's eventual goal is to return the refugees to Kosovo, the prospects for doing so in the near future is bleak.

The alliance's military goal now, officials say, is to do so much damage to the Yugoslav military and to institutions propping up the Milosevic regime that Belgrade will ultimately agree to a political settlement for Kosovo or, at least, withdraw its military forces from the province so that the refugees can return under NATO protection.

But NATO's protracted strategy means that hundreds of thousands of refugees must be taken care of in the meantime. Though NATO has conducted 11 days of raids, the alliance is just beginning to mount an intensive military campaign against Yugoslavia.

the border, North Atlantic Treaty Organization troops were constructing a large transit camp with military tents and showers due to open Sunday night.

Refugees will be given food and water, medical treatment and washing facilities while they are registered and will then be sent on, either to other camps or abroad.

As the clouds and rain that have bedeviled the NATO campaign began to lift, military officials said the bombardment over the next few days would be particularly intense.

It was the escalating problem of refugees, however, that preoccupied the alliance Sunday. Mr. Shear said 80,000 refugees were expelled from Kosovo on Saturday. The NATO spokesman added that 60,000 were trapped in a "no-man's land" in southern Kosovo, near Albania and Macedonia and that many of them have been without food for two days.

There are now 190,000 refugees in Albania and 131,000 refugees in Macedonia, an enormous population that has swamped aid efforts there.

VILLAGE: The Seared Survivors of a Serbian 'Ethnic Cleansing'

Continued from Page 1

In the prelude to a humanitarian disaster that has turned this spot of Europe into a whirlpool of misery.

More than 200,000 people have followed the Goden villagers into Albania, a nation that has opened its heart but is burdened by abject poverty in its efforts to absorb its ethnic Albanian brothers and sisters. Families stripped of possessions, identity papers and dignity are stumbling across three borders — with Albania; Macedonia, a former Yugoslav republic, and the Yugoslav republic of Montenegro — to confront a future that has no visible contours. Western officials estimate that in the next two weeks the procession of sorrow will swell by an additional 500,000 people.

The fate of Goden and its 194 inhabitants is the fate of Kosovo in microcosm: terror, roundups, house burnings, intimidation, looting, expulsion. There is also a sinister mystery that tears at the people who made it out: Twenty men from the village are missing. When last seen by their families, they were kneeling with their hands behind their heads by the wall of a burning house owned by a farmer, Hamez Osmanaj.

"We don't know if they are alive or dead or massacred," said Mrs. Feraj, whose 43-year-old husband, Nesbat, is among the missing. Along with the rest of Goden's expelled residents, she is now living in donated quarters in this Albanian mountain town. "We know nothing," she said.

Before the bombing began, Goden had largely escaped the conflict that has engulfed this province for a year. While in other villages the Kosovo Liberation Army set up command posts and checkpoints to create a parallel government, the ethnic Albanian rebels fighting for Kosovo's independence from Serbia had no presence in Goden. These villagers, however, bridled under Serbian rule and dreamed of a free Kosovo. Interior Ministry troops came into the village at least once a week to check identity papers and search homes, but they never found anything. No one from the village was ever arrested. Gunfire occasionally echoed in the distance, but the fighting was always a village or a mountain away.

Recognizing that it will be difficult for United Nations refugee workers to cope with the situation, NATO offered Sunday to take the lead in coordinating the humanitarian assistance. The alliance is sending 6,000 to 8,000 troops into Albania to help with the mass of refugees there. The NATO commander in Macedonia, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Jackson of Britain, has been ordered to mount the refugee assistance effort there.

Mr. Shear announced Sunday that Germany had agreed to accept 40,000 refugees, and Turkey and the United States 20,000 each. Norway has offered to resettle 6,000, while Canada and Greece will each resettle 5,000.

In Drita Osmanaj's house, the war's arrival was announced by the eight children playing in the yard. They ran inside shouting: "The soldiers are coming! They are here!" Twenty soldiers poured into the courtyard, then into the two-story house. Mrs. Osmanaj didn't have time to get her shoes on before she was pushed into the street. One of her children was dragged by the collar and dumped on the ground outside the house.

Agron Osmanaj, 14, a distant relative of Drita's, was also eating breakfast with his mother and seven other relatives when soldiers smashed their windows with rifle butts, showering glass into the living room. Gunfire rang out and soldiers swarmed in, gesturing and shouting in Serbian, "Move! Move!"

When Rokman Feraj was pushed outside to the street she saw, kneeling by Hamez Osmanaj's house, 20 men, including her husband, Nesbat. Drita Osmanaj saw her husband, Zymer, Drita's sister-in-law, Fane, was told by her family that her son, Bashkim, an English teacher, was against the wall but she couldn't bring herself to look. Agron Osmanaj saw his brother Hamed, a math teacher, and his former elementary-school teacher, Ali Feraj. Hamez Osmanaj also was with his knees.

Four days earlier, Bajram Morina, 75, the village elder, had died. In keeping with tradition, some of the men met every morning for coffee to talk about Mr. Morina. They had all left their homes at 7:30, on the fourth day of the seven-day wake, and 20 of them were in Mr. Morina's house when the Serbs burst into town. The soldiers separated the men from the other villagers. Some villagers say that the troops thought the men were having some kind of political meeting.

As the men knelt, the soldiers moved from house to house, lighting milk bottles filled with gasoline and tossing them inside. Soon every house in the village was burning. Some of the women implored the soldiers for mercy. "We said, 'Please let us meet the men,'" said Drita Osmanaj. But the 174 villagers, led by 15 men who were not at the wake, were pushed forward to the edge of an open pit, and the fear of death engulfed them. Mrs. Osmanaj said.

Mrs. Feraj said, "We thought they

were going to kill us." One soldier, who appeared to be the commander, shouted at them, "The order is to execute you all." Many in the crowd, particularly the younger villagers who did not speak Serbian, did not understand what he said, but his words were translated by the elders and were carried through the villagers in terrified whispers.

As the buildings burned, villagers could hear their animals bellowing in agony as the flames consumed them. After 20 minutes, the crowd was marched to another patch of grass by the edge of the village. Everyone was told to sit.

"Where do you want us to send you?" a soldier called out.

"We want to stay here," some of the villagers answered.

"There is no place for you here," a soldier replied. "For years you have been asking to join your brothers in Albania. This is Serbian land, not Albanian land."

The soldiers moved through the crowd, checking the identities of the remaining men and stripping the women of jewelry. Gunfire continued to come from every direction. Then the soldiers announced that they wanted the remaining 15 men to separate from the women and children. The women began to wail and plead with the soldiers to leave them all together.

"We thought they were going to cut their throats," Fane Osmanaj said. "We were so scared."

The Serbs relented and at around 11 A.M., an hour and a half after the terror began, the soldiers marched the villagers at gunpoint toward the Albanian border. A little more than a mile away, European peace monitors stood on the Albanian side of the border and watched as the group left the burning village. The observers said later that they then heard a sustained burst of gunfire followed by a succession of single gunshots. The villagers fear that the bullets were aimed at the 20 men who were left behind.

The soldiers guided the villagers on a zigzag route through the minefields. Four hours later, around 3 P.M., the 174 civilians from Goden entered Albania.

Before they crossed, the commander shouted at them again: "Turn your head back once again and look at Kosovo. You are never going to see it again."

BALKANS: Ghosts of Past Wars

Continued from Page 1

As a result, no clear decision has been made to go for overthrowing Mr. Milosevic. General Klaus Naumann of Germany, a top NATO general, did say that "we clearly intend to loosen his grip on power and break his will to continue." But only with the bombing of the Serbian Interior Ministry in Belgrade on Saturday did the alliance begin to appear ready to place Mr. Milosevic's jugular in its sights.

What could further radicalize this NATO approach? Perhaps a revelation of large-scale Serbian executions of the many missing ethnic Albanian men of fighting age. Or gross Serbian mistreatment of the three U.S. soldiers captured last week.

Another catalyst could be reliable intelligence suggesting that resistance to Mr. Milosevic in the army and security forces is rising fast, so that only a coup de grace is needed. Or a further deepening of the refugee crisis.

At that point, NATO might intensify its bombing of Belgrade. President Bill Clinton could turn up the propaganda war by appealing directly to the Serbian people to rise against Mr. Milosevic because he has brought them to ruin. Major resources could be invested in stirring Montenegrin restiveness, already strong.

All these measures could undermine Mr. Milosevic. Whether they would remove him is another matter. Mr. Milosevic has shown extraordinary resilience even as he has unleashed waves of destruction. After so much time, and so much propaganda, what democratic Serbian forces may lie concealed in his shadow is unclear.

What does seem clear, however, is that it will be extraordinarily difficult for Kosovo's Albanian leaders to agree now to any accord with the man who has terrorized them. In this sense, the removal of Mr. Milosevic may eventually favor a diplomatic settlement structured around Kosovan autonomy, at least as a first stage, or a Serbian-Albanian partition of the province.

But as Richard Holbrooke, who long negotiated with the Serbian strongman, has observed, Mr. Milosevic "likes to pull rabbits out of his hat." He might free the U.S. prisoners in the hope that the gesture will stimulate opposition in Europe to the bombing.

He could try to work on the Greeks and Italians, who have wavered in their support of the war. He could turn up the propaganda of Serbian suffering in the hope that the once-pacifist Green Party, now part of the German government, rediscovers its roots and brings down the coalition of Chancellor Gerhard Schröder.

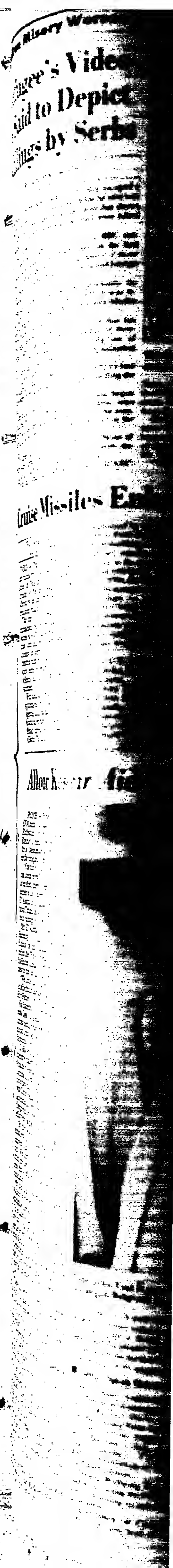
None of these strategies seems likely to work. But what may favor Mr. Milosevic, and undermine Western unity, is a widespread sense that NATO has made serious errors. Political goals have been constantly reformulated since the bombing began. A war to save an international plan for autonomy formed at Rambouillet, France, may be destroying that plan once and for all.

Most profoundly, NATO's efforts to take on new roles of crisis management while avoiding the commitment of ground troops may be the biggest risk. History does not suggest that air power alone can drive out an army. The longer the conflict goes on, the more strains in the alliance could emerge.

But Mr. Clinton has looked unusually determined of late. The 1 million dead in Bosnia and Rwanda during the 1990s have clearly had an effect on him. Where he long looked the other way in Bosnia, he now seems ready to fight for Western values and against the repetitive destruction wreaked on Europe by Mr. Milosevic in Croatia, in Bosnia and now in Kosovo.

In a speech last week at the Norfolk Naval Air Station in Virginia, the president said he was determined to make Mr. Milosevic "pay the price of aggression and murder." He asked whether America could look the other way "as entire peoples in Europe are forced to abandon their homelands or die."

He still seemed entrenched in his rejection of the use of ground troops, but that position may not hold over time. If negotiation is impossible with Mr. Milosevic, the only way to ram home the message may be to mass troops and tanks in Macedonia, or even to use the new NATO member Hungary as a base from which to send the alliance's immense armored divisions rumbling over the plains to Belgrade.



Balkan Misery Worsens/Evidence of 'Cleansing'?

Refugee's Video Is Said to Depict Killings by Serbs

By Andrew Jacobs
New York Times Service

A Kosovo refugee who said he recently escaped a massacre in his village gave the BBC what he said was a videotape of the aftermath of the incident that shows the bodies of nearly 100 men who he said were killed by Serbian forces.

The footage, which the man gave to a BBC correspondent in Albania on Saturday, may be the first images documenting the atrocities that many of those fleeing Kosovo have described to reporters and foreign aid workers.

There was no way to establish independently the authenticity of the amateur videotape, which was recorded by a man from the small town of Krusa e Madhe in the southwest of Kosovo.

The man, Melaim Bellamca, told a story that has become a familiar one among the hundreds of thousands of refugees who have been pouring out of Kosovo since the North Atlantic Treaty Organization began bombing Yugoslavia.

He said that on March 25, the day after NATO's first bombs were dropped, Serbian forces began shelling the area.

Later that day, soldiers entered the town and began separating the men from women and children, who were told to leave the village. He said some of the men, fearing the worst, tried to escape and were killed on the spot.

The others, he said, were shot one by one. None of them were armed, nor were they fighters with the Kosovo Liberation Army, Mr. Bellamca said.

The footage, which was broadcast on BBC and ABC



This image purportedly showing the body of an ethnic Albanian was taken from video by a refugee and given to the BBC. The refugee said he witnessed killings by Serbian soldiers in a Kosovo village.

News on Saturday, showed the bodies of men, dressed in civilian clothing, sprawled in fields surrounding the town. The video indicated that some of the men had been shot in the back of the head or under the jaw.

On CNN on Saturday night, an elderly man from the same village was interviewed as he crossed the Albanian border on the back of a tractor. His description of the attack by Serbian forces was similar to that of Mr. Bellamca.

"They put the men up against a wall and shot them,"

the man said. He was allowed to leave because of his age, he said.

Mr. Bellamca said he survived the massacre by hiding for a week. He filmed the bodies April 1, after Serbian forces had left the area, and arrived in Albania on Saturday. He gave the tape to George Alagiah, a correspondent for the BBC, along with a list of the names of those who were killed. "I've done this so that my son and my grandson will never forget what the Serbs did to the Albanian people," he said.

Cruise Missiles Enhance NATO's Scope

By Joseph Fitchett
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — The cruise missiles that demolished the two national police ministries in Belgrade offered a demonstration of the devastating accuracy offered by the latest generation of these precision-guided U.S. weapons.

The missiles are a critical asset in expanding the military and political scope of NATO's air offensive because they can deliver explosive warheads cleanly on target, hitting the most vulnerable point in a building, bridge, military depot or refinery and leaving civilians only a few yards away unscathed.

For accuracy, the missiles' guidance systems rely on a worldwide network of special satellites enabling the missiles to home in, regardless of visibility, on any fixed target, notably buildings. The Global Positioning System, built and

maintained by the United States, broadcasts a three-dimensional picture of the Earth enabling a U.S. cruise missile to "know" exactly where it is and to find its way to the target.

Internationally available since the mid-1990s, the GPS network is regularly used by navigators in the world's airlines and ships — and even in ordinary people's boats and cars. This commercial version only plots locations to within a dozen yards; the military system is highly classified so that its ultraprecise data are accessible only to the U.S. military.

The U.S. missiles used in the nighttime strike Saturday apparently scored bull's-eyes, partly collapsing the multistory buildings and touching off huge fires. Shattered windowpanes in a few nearby buildings represented the only reported collateral damage — military jargon for accompanying damage that might cause political embarrass-

ment. While the Belgrade strike showed that the system was not blinded by the rain and fog that could shut down sensors on NATO's warplanes, GPS guidance does not offer a solution to the problem of attacking mobile targets, such as Serbian tanks in Kosovo.

Without the new system, however, NATO might not have dared risk attacking the ministries of interior of federal Yugoslavia and of Serbia.

Even in the Gulf War eight years ago, cruise missiles relied on guidance systems using terrain reconnaissance to reach their targets, meaning that the warhead was directed by sensors that had to be able to see prominent features of the Earth's surface to chart its flight to the vicinity of the target. Once it was close, the system would scan the area to match up a target with its image, which had been stored in each missile's guidance codes — enabling it to trim its trajectory end close in for the kill.

Kosovar Chief Held by Serbs

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — NATO said Sunday that it had reports that Ibrahim Rugova, a moderate ethnic Albanian leader, was being held by Serbian forces in his house in Pristina, the capital of Kosovo.

"We have learned that his house is permanently occupied by Serb security forces," the NATO spokesman Jamie Shea said.

Serbian television Thursday showed pictures of Mr. Rugova meeting with President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia and said Mr. Rugova had called for an end to NATO air strikes. But in fact, Mr. Shea said, he had called for a "cessation of violence in Kosovo."

He said it is believed the pictures were two years old. (AP, Reuters)

Allow Kosovar Aid 'Corridor,' Italy Asks

Reuters

ROME — Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema of Italy urged President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia on Sunday to heed Pope John Paul II's call for a "humanitarian corridor" to be set up for refugees from Kosovo.

"Our hope is that a sign of humanity can come from Belgrade. If there isn't even that, there is really no other alternative to continuing the war," Mr. D'Alema told Italian state television from Tirana, the Albanian capital, where he is visiting aid workers.

Mr. D'Alema, who held talks with Secretary of State Cardinal Angelo Sodano of the Vatican on Saturday, hailed the Pope's appeal, made during his Easter Sunday "Urbi et Orbi" address to the city and the world.

"We hope that those who are responsible for that at least heed the voice of the Holy Father," Mr. D'Alema said.

On Saturday, Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini suggested a total blockade against Serbia if the bombing campaign did not force Mr. Milosevic to change his policies soon.

"If Milosevic doesn't give way, the alternative strategy to strikes could be a blockade of Serbia, a total blockade, a complete isolation of Belgrade from the rest of the world," he said in an interview with Corriere della Sera. His statement also marked the first time that a NATO foreign minister openly questioned the effectiveness of the air strikes.

"In other words, if the alliance's stated aims are not reached, the bombardment cannot continue forever," he said. "We need to think of a way of putting pressure on Belgrade that is not cruel, that is effective, that can be felt immediately."

Mr. Dini said a blockade of Serbia would cut off everything except food aid and medical supplies.

In his address, the Pope said, "On this holy day I feel duty-bound to make a heartfelt appeal to the authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to allow a humanitarian corridor to be opened in order for help to be brought to the mass of people gathered at the border of Kosovo."

"There can be no frontiers to impede the work of solidarity; corridors of hope are always an imperative," said John Paul, whose diplomatic envoys have been working for both an end to the NATO bombings and a return to the negotiating table for ethnic Albanians and Yugoslav leaders.

For the Pope, Easter was tinged with sorrow over the war.

He expressed dismay over both Yugoslavia's violence against the Kosovars and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's air strikes.

"How can we speak of peace when people are forced to flee, when they are hunted down and their homes are burnt to the ground?" he said in his Easter message.

Earlier, during Mass, the Pope invited prayers for peace in the Balkans and for respect for the rights of man.



Pope John Paul II pausing after his Easter address in St. Peter's Square. He urged Belgrade to open a "humanitarian corridor" for Kosovars.

The nearly 78-year-old Pope seemed weary as, seated under a canopy shielding him from a strong noon sun, he addressed the people in the square.

He ended the service by reading Easter greetings in 60 languages.

Clergy Speak Out on War

In Germany, traditional Easter peace marches were dominated by calls for an end to NATO's attacks on Yugoslavia. The Associated Press reported.

"The horrible happenings of these days lie like a dark cloud over our Easter holiday," Cardinal Friedrich Wetter, Archbishop of Munich, said in his Easter sermon.

Bishop Wolfgang Huber in Berlin, a Lutheran, outed the criticism of NATO, said, "Standing by and doing nothing is no answer."

Archbishop of Canterbury George Carey, spiritual head of the Church of

England, urged the British to support the refugees fleeing Serbian terror with donations, and he said the NATO action was justified against evil.

"Military action thus far is recognition that the civilized world cannot stand idly by and accept that evil should triumph," he said. "It must surely be right that skills and energy of similar intensity are employed in saving and protecting the lives of helpless and vulnerable people."

Prayers for peace in Kosovo and security for its refugees were said in churches across predominantly Roman Catholic Poland.

Cardinal Jozef Glemp, head of the church in Poland, said the 20th century had been marked by "concentration camps, war and bombardments" that can be heard even today. "We must pray that God gives us a better next century."

So Far, NATO's Bombing Seems to Help Milosevic

By Steven Erlanger
New York Times Service

BELGRADE — President Bill Clinton may seem tired and worn these days, but President Slobodan Milosevic of Yugoslavia, by contrast, is looking as if he is on top of his little world.

With no contentious U.S. electorate or media to distract him, Mr. Milosevic is riding above the fray, while his army and his police are capturing (or maybe abducting) American soldiers, shooting down a Stealth fighter-bomber and expelling ethnic Albanians from Kosovo in numbers beyond the worst nightmares of Washington officials who make policy and draft strategy.

Somewhere in the confusing structure of the Yugoslav Information Ministry, the Serbian Information Ministry, the military press center and Serbian state television, there is a clear understanding that Mr. Milosevic is playing now to two audiences — one domestic and one international, especially American.

While his voice is rarely heard, even on state television, his beaming, seemingly genial chat sessions are being broadcast around the world, over and over, in part because the news channels can get so little footage of their own past the Serbian censors.

While the North Atlantic Treaty Organization is pounding his country — including, now, his capital — from the air, Mr. Milosevic, portly and almost always smiling, is meeting Vatican envoys and Russian delegations.

His military seems to be withstanding the NATO might, and his people, who do not especially like him, are rallying around him anyway as the commander in chief of their embattled homeland.

"There is no fifth column in Serbia now," said Vuk Draskovic, the former anti-Milosevic democracy campaigner who was co-opted into the government before the war began.

"We're all one party now. We're all under one banner, the Yugoslav banner."

Zorana Djic, a 32-year-old pharmacist interviewed Saturday in a crowded Belgrade street, said the destruction of the Interior Ministry buildings overnight by cruise missiles would have little effect on the government or on ordinary Serbs, who are simply being driven closer together — at home or abroad, where many Serbs live and work.

"Just now, there are 13 million people who are at the same time against him and for him," she said. "He will be even stronger now than before it started. I don't know why American analysts even get a salary."

People here are afraid, of course, she said. "No one wants to die, even from a fine, democratic American bomb," she said. "But people conquer their fear by standing up."

Dejan Anastasijevic, an analyst for Vreme, a news magazine, said the Belgrade strikes were symbolic, intended to show Mr. Milosevic that the alliance could hit any target.

"But NATO took a great risk of civilian casualties, with a hospital so nearby, just to demonstrate that it can destroy two totally empty office buildings," he said. "This has not damaged Milosevic's standing or his capacity to fight."

For his part, President Milosevic met with other senior officials and issued a statement afterward praising "the heroic spirit of Belgrade."

In the aftermath of the first NATO bombs to strike inside Belgrade, state television concentrated on comparisons to the Nazi invaders' bombing of Belgrade, also at Easter, in 1941.

Rather than spending too much time praising the Interior Ministry and the activities of its troops and police — no one's favorite authorities here — television emphasized the evacuation of wards in the nearby hospital, with its frightened mothers, angry staff members and newborn babies lying in rows in a basement shelter.

Television has also revealed the embarrassment of Mr. Clinton at the capture of three U.S. soldiers who the Yugoslavs insist crossed the border from Macedonia into Kosovo.

A military court has begun an investigation into their case, collecting evidence to see whether they should be brought to trial.

But there has been no response to Mr. Clinton's demands that they be released and no indication of where they are being held.

The supposition here is that Mr. Milosevic will not hurry either to try them or to release them, but there was little information about them in Belgrade.

In this way, too, Mr. Milosevic benefits enormously from Yugoslavia's own wartime censorship, which has also allowed the government to accelerate its war against independent periodicals and broadcast outlets.

The independent radio station B-92, which had its transmitter disabled by the authorities just before the bombs fell but was broadcasting via satellite and the Internet, was silenced early Friday through a legal maneuver that put the station under state control.

In the past week, a number of other independent newspapers and radio stations were also shut down.

Admit One

TIME

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EDITORIALS/OPINION

INTERNATIONAL
Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Rationed News About Kosovo

When democracies send their military forces into combat, citizens need to know as much about the battles as sensible security precautions permit. In the case of Kosovo, with Western reporters barred by Yugoslav authorities from covering the conflict on the ground, NATO and the Pentagon must provide a detailed account of the effectiveness of the air war. It is a responsibility they have so far largely failed to meet.

The air offensive has not gone well, and the public should not be denied an account of the reasons, beyond the foul weather that has limited bombing runs.

NATO briefings in Brussels have emphasized Yugoslavia's violent assault on the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo, a vital part of the unfolding story. But NATO has provided only vague information about the bombing campaign. Few details have been made available about targets hit and how badly they have been damaged. The Pentagon has handed out a few more crumbs of information, but the public has little idea whether NATO has managed to slow the Serbian sweep across Kosovo.

The issue is not providing informa-

tion about future targets. The need is for information about targets that have been attacked. Yugoslav authorities already know where NATO bombs have landed.

Rationing war news is a familiar problem among American military leaders and their civilian superiors. Misleading military briefings eroded Washington's credibility during the Vietnam War. Yet since then, the Pentagon has continued to try to manage combat information, even during the military successes of the Gulf War.

In the weeks ahead, President Bill Clinton may seek public support for escalating the air war, or even introducing ground troops into combat.

Complicated political and security issues will have to be resolved before the conflict ends. It is essential that citizens have all the information they need to make informed judgments as these matters arise. Mr. Clinton and his counterparts in Europe do themselves and their countries a disservice by so tightly controlling information about the battle in Kosovo.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A Season of Sacrifice

A cruel irony of the horror in Kosovo is that the events there are unfolding in one of the holiest seasons of the year for the religions that dominate the countries gripped by the conflict. By accident of the lunar calendar, the observances of Easter, Passover and the Muslim feast of sacrifice, Eid al Adha, all occur this week, and few worshippers caught in the spirit of deliverance reflected in each holiday will fail to be struck by the seeming absence of anything redeeming about the war in the Balkans. But if solace can be drawn in the coincidence of these days of prayer, it is in the lesson of how much these religions have in common at a time when so many of their adherents are in conflict.

Passover celebrates the emergence of the Jewish people, but its universal drama is that of an escape from oppression, a declaration of freedom and self-determination that remains at issue 3,500 years after it was first heard.

The ancient Hebrews' exodus from Egypt clears the way for them to receive a code of conduct from one God, a code that defines what forever makes them Jews. But as Jews eat matzah at Passover, the "bread of affliction" can symbolize not simply the flight from Egypt, but the constant danger of regarding any people as strangers in their own land. It is no accident that the Passover seder has in recent years drawn the faithful from other religions and backgrounds.

Alienation and expulsion, after all, are the oldest and perhaps most shocking of human dramas. The tragedy in the Balkans is that there is no sign yet of any promise of return or deliverance, but the deep yearning for that promise is surely what can lead to action by others.

The universal symbolism of Easter, which Orthodox Christians celebrate April 11, is about a promise of salvation after defeat that is of a deeply personal nature, rather than the emergence of a people.

For Christians and non-Christians alike, the story Easter celebrates is that of one man maintaining his faith before

the military might of an oppressive government and the taunts of the crowd, a lesson of integrity and determination that has molded much of civilization as we know it. This story of sacrifice and redemption does little, of course, to lessen the pain in Kosovo. But its vision of justice rising above the temporal powers of the day is a reminder that the human spirit can triumph.

The Muslim holiday of Eid al Adha is also about regeneration and is observed by a vast multitude of people, including in this instance most of the victims of the "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. It is a festival of sacrifice and the annual pilgrimage to Mecca. As Muslims see fellow Muslims forced from an inhospitable place in search of a place that will receive them, they cannot help but think of Mohammed's persecution and flight from Mecca to Medina, where he was welcomed and where he built his faith. The holiday also commemorates Abraham's sacrifice of the ram as a substitute for his son, with its echoes of the paschal lamb of Passover and the lamb of God of Christianity.

Some have characterized the war in the Balkans as an ancient implacable conflict among religions. But in fact, it is testimony to the ability of ruthless leaders to persecute others in the name of religion, ignoring the genuine tradition of tolerance enshrined in Judaism, Christianity and Islam and articulated by the prophets, saints and seers of each faith.

In a season when adherents to these great religions are worshipping God in their own ways, it is especially important to remember the horrors of viewing others with different backgrounds as strangers, or even enemies, whether they live in Northern Ireland, the Balkans, the Middle East, Indonesia or any other place of entrenched religious and ethnic conflict.

Thus this season's confluence of holidays and horrors can serve as a powerful reminder of that higher yearning among people of all traditions.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

A New 'Last Chance' in Ulster

The much-advertised "last chance" for the Irish to put into effect last year's Good Friday peace agreement has come and gone. This leaves the Protestant majority and Catholic minority in Northern Ireland measurably closer to... surely to an early breakthrough on the crucial issue of dismantling the private guerrilla militias, especially the Irish Republican Army. The possibility of a collapse into violence is but a bomb away. Yet the responsible leaders of both religious communities in Northern Ireland are under intense pressure to stay at the negotiating table. The never-say-quit prompting of the British and Irish leaders, Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern, has produced a "declaration" that the Northern Ireland parties have agreed to take up on April 13.

Dismantling, or "decommissioning" arms, is rightly regarded as proof that the disarmer is renouncing not just violence and the means of defense but also the whole option of armed struggle. Dismantling on the Catholic side is widely seen as an ultimate act,

the counterpart to the Protestant side's readiness to share real political power. IRA extremists, of course, resist dismantling for fear it would cost them the guns for pressing their goal of driving out the British.

The Blair-Ahern declaration anticipates a "collective act of reconciliation" that will "see arms put beyond use, on a voluntary and verified basis." At about the same time a set of new political institutions providing a place for Northern Ireland's Catholics will enter into force.

The declaration has touched off a lively discussion on whether it invites the parties to evade or to tackle the deep gap of distrust remaining between them. The answer will depend primarily on whether the IRA will make at least a minimal gesture of disarmament. Such a gesture would let the Protestant leadership tell its people that the disarming has truly begun and that now is the moment to admit Catholics to genuine political power.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Taking a Stand Against the Milosevics of the Future

By Lawrence S. Eagleburger

(Not that Serbia bears all the guilt—Franjo Tudjman's Croatia, for example, also does.)

Some argue that all would be well if the alliance removed Mr. Milosevic from the scene. Too simple by a long shot!

This is not a third-world dictator like Saddam Hussein who can keep power through terror and repression. Serb nationalism is the real ruler here. Whoever would follow Mr. Milosevic would certainly be just as bad. Or he might even be worse—a true believer in the nationalist cause, rather than a political operator like Mr. Milosevic,

under Tito) because he sees that so long as Albanians constitute the vast majority of the population, their desire for independence will one day bear fruit. Whether that judgment was correct in the past is an open question; it is surely the case now after the recent killings and forced departures.

Thus President Bill Clinton's warning that, because of ethnic cleansing by the Serbs in Kosovo, the alliance may support Kosovo autonomy rather than independence must fall on deaf ears.

Mr. Milosevic already believes that any compromise on his part would inevitably lead to Kosovo's independence, and thus he would never have considered abiding by the peace agreement reached in Rambouillet, France,

who simply embraces patriotism for his own purposes.

None of the region's other recent wars can teach us much about what to expect in Kosovo—a lesson that was lost on those who felt the Serbs would quickly back down after NATO started bombing.

Belgrade's aggression in Croatia and Bosnia was in furtherance of a mythical "Greater Serbia"—an effort to add territory and unite Serbs living in the neighborhood.

The purpose now is to retain a piece of old Serbia—and one that represents the best and worst of the Serbs' history. They lost their independence there to the Turks in 1389 and did not regain it for 500 years. For the Serbs to give up Kosovo would be to turn back the clock.

I do not believe that Mr. Milosevic has ever been ready to grant autonomy to Kosovo (a status the province held

last month even if he had signed it. So can he continue to withstand our air attacks? If NATO is prepared to continue its air campaign indefinitely, perhaps not. But will America's allies (and the American people and world opinion) support such an effort indefinitely? Probably not. It may, therefore, be a question of who gives up first.

Since the bombing has rallied the Serb nation behind Mr. Milosevic, he is playing with a strong hand.

Even if Mr. Milosevic does cave in, the alliance would face a monumental task. The return of refugees, repair of housing and public works, and the certain Kosovo demand for independence at some early point all ensure instability and suggest that NATO "peacekeepers" would not be enough to assure a tranquil atmosphere.

When the Yugoslav federation began to break up in the late 1980s and the first signs of ethnic strife became

apparent, the Bush Administration took a relatively hard look at what to do.

We had no illusions about the fact that to have an effect would mean in that to have an effect would mean involving several hundred thousand ground troops, and for better or worse we decided that it was a swamp into which we did not want to walk.

NATO may no longer feel it has that choice; if so, it is vital that those who make the decisions take just as realistic a view as we did as to what intervention would entail.

Some have suggested that NATO should arm the Kosovars. This would ensure increased Albanian intransigence both now and in the future. The Kosovo Liberation Army earned its reputation as a terrorist group and would under the best of circumstances be a factor for instability.

In short, while we could not trust the Serbs to keep their part of any bargain, neither should we put much trust in Kosovo commitments. Serbian suspicions in recent years that the Kosovars have never had their sights on anything but independence were well justified.

And if Mr. Milosevic does not give up? Then the alliance either ends its attempts to force him to meet its demands, putting as good a face on the failure as possible, or NATO sends in ground forces in sufficient numbers and strength to defeat almost certain resistance from the Serbs.

Given the terrain and the toughness of the Serbs, it would not be an easy or cost-free enterprise.

The real question is: Can NATO and the United States afford to fail? Now that the alliance has gone this far, probably not. If anything stands in the way of an unstable 21st century it is that very alliance. The credibility of NATO must be preserved or all the world-be Milosevics around the world will believe that they, too, can kill and maim with impunity.

The writer, who was U.S. secretary of state from 1992 to 1993 and ambassador to Yugoslavia from 1977 to 1981, contributed this comment to The New York Times.

A Small War With Big Consequences for World Stability

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — The political fallout from NATO's hedged air assault on Serbia drifts down on the ob-lasts around Moscow, the primary precincts of New Hampshire and beyond.

Success or failure in the latest Balkan war will help shape national elections and diplomatic strategies in the world's major powers deep into the future.

The Balkan tail will wag big dogs in the United States, Russia and elsewhere as the 21st century begins.

That prospect suggests how out of proportion the stakes in the Kosovo conflict have become when measured against the narrow war strategy and limited air resources committed to the task by NATO planners.

You might not expect President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore — elected twice to focus on America's domestic economy and to keep America out of trouble overseas — to come up with a perfect military plan for a Balkan war.

You would expect them to foresee the political consequences of their decisions in minute detail.

The painful, chaotic opening week of the NATO air campaign against Slobodan Milosevic's violent ethnic cleansing of Serbia's southern province suggests you would have been right on Assumption One and almost certainly wrong on Assumption Two.

Events have overtaken the initial NATO strategy to blunt Mr. Milosevic's offensive in Kosovo and make him sue for peace. Mr. Milosevic has used the bombing campaign as cover to expand his war on Kosovo into a regional conflict.

The Serbs have strewn 300,000 refugees into neighboring lands and now threaten to destabilize their governments. And they have taken three U.S. soldiers hostage.

The downward spiral of events forces the president and his allies in NATO to scramble for a regional strategy to protect the endangered governments and help them cope with the human tidal wave and to limit the gulf that is opening between the West and Russia.

Militarily, Washington is locked on a course of punishing air attacks, which it must pursue to the end. It must in fact urgently intensify those strikes if it is to avoid losing control over its own options.

Two potentially disastrous

options will gain currency if the weather-hampered air strikes continue to be treated by the Serbs as ants at their picnic.

The two extreme options are suddenly lurching into a hastily conceived ground offensive in Kosovo, or abandoning the air war for a cosmetic pause, that leaves Mr. Milosevic in control of his blood-soaked gains.

Either would undermine NATO's effectiveness and call into doubt its very reason for existence in the next century. Both must be avoided.

Mr. Gore has the most to lose from the rising public questioning of the match of U.S. goals and tactics.

However unclear his responsibility for the decisions, he is handcuffed to the war's outcome and its impact on Russia, a country for which he has taken on special responsibilities.

In contrast, Mr. Gore's Russian counterpart, Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov, seems to be using the war to strengthen the inside rail position he has for Russia's presidential election in 2000.

A failure as diplomacy, Mr. Primakov's trip to Belgrade last Tuesday was a political success at home.

bania to protect those fragile nations and to make it plain that no option has been foreclosed. As one who has practiced and counseled negotiation as the best tool for resolving disputes, I take no pleasure in seeing civilized society resort to force to bring a conflict to an end. But it is the credible threat of force that often makes possible a negotiated resolution of disputes.

Plainly, Mr. Milosevic does not believe that the United

States and its allies have the will or nerve to use force fully and effectively against him. If we prove him right — if we fail to do all that is necessary to defeat him and to bring him to justice for his crimes — we risk undermining the essence of our security and diplomacy.

The writer, U.S. secretary of state from 1993 to 1997, contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

The West Must Prevail in Kosovo, by Whatever Means Necessary

By Warren Christopher

WASHINGTON — We — NATO and the United States — must prevail in Kosovo.

We must do so unambiguously, using whatever force is necessary to accomplish the goal. Given the new facts on the ground, there is no now satisfactory alternative.

The genocidal conduct of Slobodan Milosevic and his thugs in Kosovo is much more than an assault on a single ethnic minority. It is a new test of an old question — whether we will permit a ruthless dictator to terrorize a portion of Europe with impunity.

If Mr. Milosevic is successful in Kosovo, or, more accurately, if he is not rendered obviously unsuccessful, the repercussions for the United States, NATO and all of the West will be profound.

Two world wars taught us that American security and safety do not begin and end at our shores. We also learned that our relationship with Europe was far too important for us to remain detached from its conflicts. Today, it is beyond argument that the United States has deep and abiding interests in a peaceful Europe.

The United States failed to move as early as it should have in Bosnia.

By late spring and early summer of 1995, however, we knew that we had to act. The British and French, whose troops were the backbone of the United Nations force there, signaled that they would leave the region by year's end. The Milosevic-sup-

ported Bosnian Serb Army took UN soldiers hostage, massacred thousands in Srebrenica and threatened to overrun the town of Gorazde.

In London in late July 1995, the United States persuaded its allies that an attack on "safe areas" would be met by a substantial and decisive use of air power. When the Serbs bombed a marketplace in Sarajevo, NATO backed up our words with a sustained bombing campaign. That bombing campaign enabled Ambassador Richard Holbrooke to persuade Mr. Milosevic to agree to a cease-fire, a set of political principles and a peace conference at Dayton. I learned from the Serbian delegation at Dayton that sustained bombing was largely responsible for the about-face.

The situation the alliance faces today in Kosovo calls even more loudly for decisive action than did the events in Bosnia in 1995.

True to despicable form, Mr. Milosevic has undertaken systematically to expel or murder people who have had the temerity to seek recognition of their identity. But the brazenness of his conduct goes well beyond his behind-the-scenes role in Bosnia.

If there was doubt before, it is now clear that Mr. Milosevic must be tried for war crimes. He has created a humanitarian crisis of shocking dimension, and he has dared — virtually taunted — the 19 nations of NATO to use their power to

restrain him. Make no mistake — Mr. Milosevic did not first conceive the idea of "ethnic cleansing" the Albanians from Kosovo when NATO's bombs began to fall. If the United States fails to act firmly now, it will mean that America and its European allies have lost not only their compass but our gyroscope as well.

Based on my firsthand experience with Mr. Milosevic, I believe he is a tactician, not a strategist. The Rambouillet agreement gave him an opportunity to preserve a tie to Kosovo while satisfying NATO that the indigenous Albanian population would be reasonably treated. Mr. Milosevic missed that chance, probably because he failed to see it.

Now he has brutally changed the equation. We must act to ensure that all Kosovo refugees return to a safe, secure environment. The events of the past 12 days demonstrate that such an outcome is not possible unless Mr. Milosevic is permanently barred from participating in Kosovo's affairs.

We must do whatever is necessary to vindicate the authority of the international community and to stop the genocide. We can and should try to accomplish these objectives through the sustained and intensified use of air power. We must resist the instinct to find failure in the lack of an immediate dramatic result. At the same time, we should position strong, mobile forces in Macedonia and Al-

bania to protect those fragile nations and to make it plain that no option has been foreclosed. As one who has practiced and counseled negotiation as the best tool for resolving disputes, I take no pleasure in seeing civilized society resort to force to bring a conflict to an end. But it is the credible threat of force that often makes possible a negotiated resolution of disputes.

Plainly, Mr. Milosevic does not believe that the United

States and its allies have the will or nerve to use force fully and effectively against him. If we prove him right — if we fail to do all that is necessary to defeat him and to bring him to justice for his crimes — we risk undermining the essence of our security and diplomacy.

The writer, U.S. secretary of state from 1993 to 1997, contributed this comment to The Washington Post.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO**1899: Spring Bolero**

PARIS — For the moment, the weather is too cold to think seriously about spring costumes. Everybody is walking about in furs, with the high collars as protectors against the easterly winds. I hear, however, that the tight-fitting skirt and bolero, as an outdoor jacket, will be a prevailing fashion as soon as there is a change in the temperature. Lace will be a great feature in these walking suits, as even the lining of the bolero will be of this dainty fabric.

1924: Concierge Gaffe

PARIS — Here is a concierge who is hoist with her own petard. Americans who have made the acquaintance of this fly in the ointment of Paris will grin. Mme. Balcar, whose lair is in the Avenue d'Italie, entered the office of the police brandishing a letter. "See how they

slander me," she exclaimed. "I am acidulous, stupid and ill-willed." The words were in the letter. "That letter was written to you?" asked the commissioner. "No. It is for the Leveines, who inhabit my place." "You opened it?" — "Certainly." — "Then, Madame, I am compelled to take proceedings against you."

1949: NATO Is Born

WASHINGTON, April 4. — In solemn assembly today the foreign ministers of twelve nations signed the North Atlantic Treaty, hailed by President Truman as "a shield against aggression and fear of aggression." President Truman rejected Russia's charge that the pact is "aggressive." The President asserted that "the people of the West are determined that the sickening blow of unprovoked aggression shall not fall upon the world again."

Herald Tribune
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International Herald Tribune, 181 Avenue Charles-de-Gaulle, 92521 Neuilly-sur-Seine, France.
Tel. (1) 41 43 93 00 Fax: Subscriptions, (1) 41 43 92 10; Advertising, (1) 41 43 92 12; News, (1) 41 43 93 38.
Internet address: <http://www.ihl.com> E-Mail: ihl@ihl.com
Editor for Asia: Michael Richardson
5 Concourse Rd., Singapore 119600 Tel. (65) 472 7768 Fax: (65) 274 2334
Managing Director, Asia: Nigel I. Oatley
121st, 191 Jura Road, Hong Kong Tel. 852-2923-1188 Fax: 852-2923-1190
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650 Third Ave. New York, N.Y. 10022 Tel. (212) 752-3890 Fax: (212) 755-8783
U.S. Circulation Office: 40 Marsh Wall, London E14 9TP Tel. (171) 510-5700 Fax: (171) 587-3451
S.A.S. au capital de 1.201.000 F.R.S. Numéro B 73201110, Commission Paritaire No. 61337
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HEALTH/SCIENCE

A Damaging Technique?

Researchers Question Male-Fertility Method

By Gina Kolata
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — A popular technique to help infertile men become fathers, injecting individual sperm into individual eggs, alters the fertilization process, researchers have found. They said there was no evidence so far that the technique affected babies conceived with it, but they said the finding raised troubling questions of what doctors should tell infertile couples.

The technique, intracytoplasmic sperm injection, or ICSI, was developed about seven years ago and has been adopted by virtually every major infertility program. Tens of thousands of babies have been born through ICSI, which costs about \$10,000 a pregnancy attempt.

But in a paper published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, Gerald Schatten and his colleagues at Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, working with eggs and sperm from rhesus monkeys, report that the actual injection can damage proteins in the egg that push and pull chromosomes into line before cell division and that fertilization through ICSI skews the egg's otherwise orderly removal of proteins from sperm.

ICSI was discovered by accident seven years ago when Belgian doctors inadvertently injected a man's sperm directly into a woman's egg while trying to inject the sperm into a space between the egg's outer and inner membranes. No one thought the method would work — when scientists had injected whole sea urchin sperm into sea urchin eggs, the sperm had swum around in the egg's cytoplasm and showed no sign of fertilizing the eggs. But, astonishingly, the human egg began to divide and turned into an embryo, then a fetus, then a baby.

With ICSI, any man who produces sperm, even if he does not ejaculate the sperm, even if sperm never mature in his testes, even if sperm die on their way to being ejaculated, can become a father. Doctors can take sperm that were ejaculated or can remove sperm from the testicles and inject a single sperm cell

into a single egg, fertilizing it.

Before ICSI, said Sherman Silber, director of the Infertility Center of St. Louis, at best 5 percent of infertile men could be treated. Now, he said, 99 percent can father children. The method, he added, "has completely revolutionized the treatment of male infertility." It is so successful, Dr. Silber said, that some infertility centers do not even bother with normal fertilization, but simply inject each man's sperm into his partner's egg, reasoning that fertilization rates will be higher with ICSI.

But even as the technique was coming into wide use in people, some biologists wondered about its safety. The question was difficult to study in the usual small mammals, like hamsters and mice, because the molecular biology of fertilization is different in these animals and even the size and texture of their eggs differ. Until Dr. Schatten's studies, no one had used ICSI on any primate other than humans.

Dr. Schatten studied what he calls the "molecular undressing" of a sperm cell by an egg. Sperm cells keep their genetic material tucked down into a cramped space, held in place by at least two proteins that form a sheathlike structure over the sperm's head. Ordinarily, the egg removes one of these proteins as the sperm cell passes through the egg's outer membrane and takes off others as the sperm makes its way through the cytoplasm to the egg's nucleus. By the time the sperm cell arrives at its destination, its genetic material is freed and replication can begin.

With ICSI, Dr. Schatten found, the sheathlike proteins remain in place far longer and then, when the first protein comes off, the sperm's genetic material starts to abruptly push its way out. The carefully choreographed disrobing of the sperm is disrupted, Dr. Schatten said he had preliminary evidence that the X chromosome is at the tip of the sperm's genetic material, indicating that it may be preferentially affected by the way the sperm's chromosomes spill out into the egg.

But he said there was no evidence from his studies of monkeys that the

differences affected the resulting infants. He said he used ICSI to create 14 monkey embryos that resulted in six pregnancies and four live offspring. One monkey was born dead but appeared anatomically normal. The other pregnancy ended in a miscarriage.

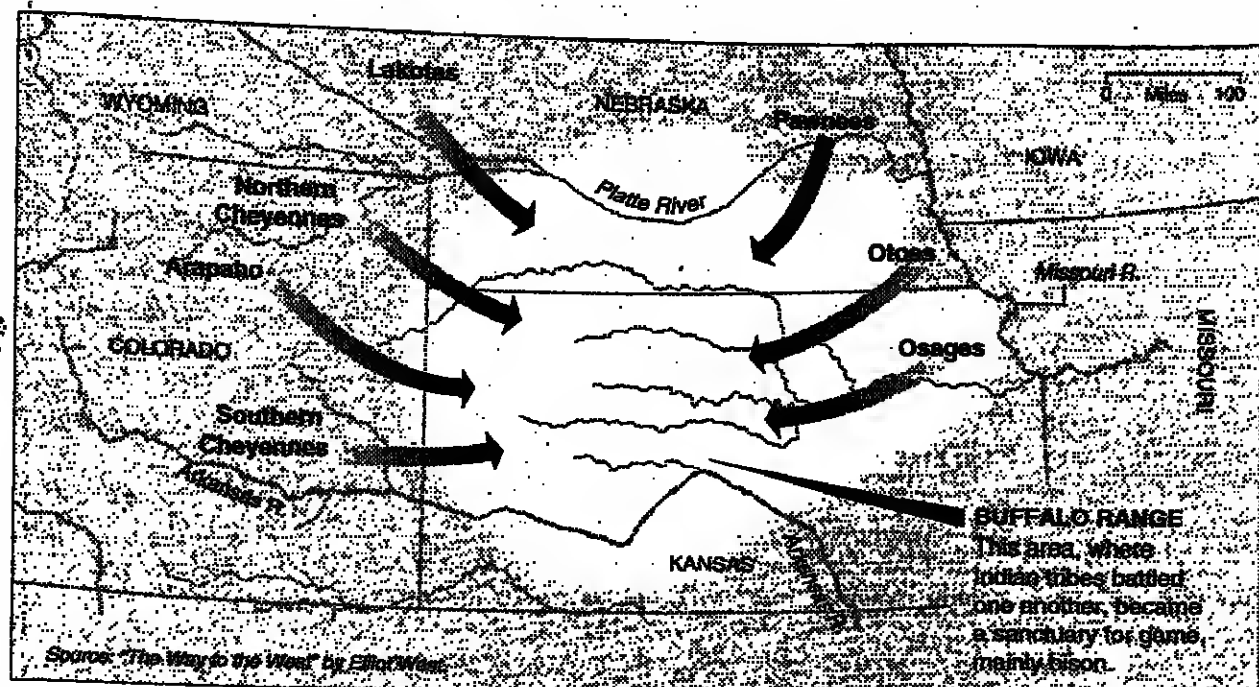
With humans, said Dolores Lamh, a male infertility researcher at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, 20 percent to 40 percent of the couples who use ICSI have live babies, a rate comparable to the rate for in-vitro fertilization. But she said that couples who came to Baylor typically went home to have their babies and did not necessarily report back on how healthy the babies were. Chromosome studies cost \$500, she said, so no one does them.

Some doctors point out that virtually all chromosomal defects are lethal to embryos and so, even if ICSI damages an embryo, nature will screen out those with severe problems. If there were an epidemic of severely damaged ICSI babies, it would be noticed, these doctors say. Alan DeCherney, a fertility specialist at the University of California in Los Angeles, said that when he counsels couples about ICSI, "I tell them the risks appear to be extremely small."

BARRY ZIRKIN, a reproductive biologist at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, is less sanguine. "I think it's important not to rush to ICSI," Dr. Zirkkin said. "There's a lot we don't understand." Couples who choose ICSI, he said, "need to understand what we know for sure — that you can get a baby — and what we don't know for sure — a lot about what that baby is going to be like and what his or her offspring are going to be like."

Dr. Schatten said he knew from personal experience the emotional pull to have a baby and the reluctance of many couples to use a sperm donor.

"I'm the first to say this is a miraculous technique," Dr. Schatten said. "I can't see going to someone who would say, 'Yeah, I can give you a kid but I want another 35 years of research before I'm going to touch this.'"



Indian Warfare and Ecology

By William K. Stevens
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Perhaps no exploration in American history has more famously combined intrepidity with scientific enterprise than the two-year expedition of Lewis and Clark from the Mississippi to the Pacific two centuries ago. The ecologist Daniel Botkin, in a 1995 book, called it "the greatest wilderness trip ever recorded."

But how pristine was that Western wilderness of 1804 to 1806? Fossil records of the Lewis and Clark era as untouched by humans and apart from them: a sort of original realm of the wild, undisturbed and eternal. But many experts have long since abandoned that vision. Today they see humans as longtime major players in nature's grand drama, and Native Americans among the main ecological actors of the old West. Citing as evidence the marvelously detailed journals of Captains Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, some scientists are proposing that even Indian warfare played a critical ecological role, by regulating and maintaining both the numbers and distribution of bison and other big animals of the West before descendants of Europeans settled it.

Basically, according to this "war zone" theory, Indian hunters were so proficient that in an individual tribe's homeland, populations of big game like bison and elk seriously declined and in some cases disappeared. But in several big buffer zones between warring tribes, where hunters were loath to spend much time lest their enemies attack them, big game found more safety and flourished. These no-man's-lands functioned, in effect, as game preserves.

The war-zone theory is laid out in the February issue of the journal *Conservation Biology* by Paul Martin, a paleoecologist at the University of Arizona.

zone, and Christine Szuter, editor in chief of the University of Arizona Press. Mr. Martin says the theory could partly explain why bison, elk, deer and bears escaped the fate of other, even bigger North American animal species that became extinct some 13,000 years ago. These included, among others, mammoths, mastodons, camels, giant sloths, tapirs and predators that depended on them, like giant short-faced bears, a giant wolf called the dire wolf and the saber-toothed cat.

The bison is the largest surviving life form in North America, and Mr. Martin is the chief advocate of the view that the earlier vanished species of megafauna, as they are called, were hunted to extinction in a continentwide "hitzkrieg" lasting several centuries by human hunters who had migrated to North America from Siberia 15,000 years ago or more.

"The land had been stripped of most of its native megafauna through human influence" long before Lewis and Clark appeared on the scene, Mr. Martin and Ms. Szuter write.

OTHER scientists contend that the ancient megafauna were extinguished by climatic change or disease, or by a combination of factors. Be that as it may, it is abundantly clear that Native Americans and their ancestors, called Paleo-Indians by scientists, transformed the landscape and ecological relationships of the Western Hemisphere, with both positive and negative effects. Indians rearranged the land with earthworks, farm fields, houses, towns and trails. As top predators, the impact of their hunting on many species rippled through two Colombian ecosystems.

The idea that warfare created game sanctuaries in buffer zones between tribes has been proposed by a number of authorities. In the 1960s, Harold Hickerson, an anthropologist, found that in the 18th and 19th centuries, a contested

zone varying from 15,000 to 35,000 square miles (39,000 to 90,000 square kilometers) separated the Chippewa and Lakota in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

In 1995, Elliott West, a historian at the University of Arkansas, identified contested zones of the central plains that in the early and mid-1800s covered huge stretches of what are now Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska.

Now, citing the Lewis and Clark journals, Mr. Martin suggests that in their era, a great wedge of territory stretching for 46,000 square miles across the eastern two-thirds of what is now Montana, between the Missouri and Yellowstone Rivers, was an important war zone. This region, he and Ms. Szuter wrote, "is commonly regarded by historians, biologists and TV producers alike as the very essence of 'wild' America."

But in fact, they wrote, the plenitude of bison and other game there "reflected the status of the area as a buffer zone," where "war parties of various tribes or nations were ever at hand, and anyone hunting, processing and drying meat" might be killed by enemies.

One dissenter who has problems with the Martin-Szuter view is Mr. Botkin, an ecologist at George Mason University in northern Virginia and president of the Center for the Study of the Environment, a nonprofit research organization in Santa Barbara, California.

While there may have been more bison in war zones than elsewhere, Mr. Botkin said, Mr. Martin seems to assume that the ecology of the plains remained static. In fact, said Mr. Botkin, the bison were highly migratory, and would probably have migrated in and out of war zones. On a more fundamental level, he says, the Martin-Szuter paper implies that humans are a force outside nature, that their impact is unnatural and therefore undesirable. On the contrary, Mr. Botkin says, humans are an integral part of nature, one of many forces that have long kept the natural world in a constant state of flux.

BOOKS

SUCH A PRETTY, PRETTY GIRL

By Winston Groom. 306 pages.
\$23.95. Random House.

Reviewed by Janice Harayda

A FEW years after "Forrest Gump" won six Academy Awards, contestants on "Jeopardy!" had to identify the author of the novel that inspired the movie. Nobody knew his name.

Such is the unlucky fate of Winston Groom, a man perhaps eternally destined to remain less well known than his most famous character. Is this fair?

Not entirely. Groom has written 10 books that include "Better Times Than These," a good novel of the Vietnam War, and "Shrouds of Glory," an excellent nonfiction account of General John Bell Hood's efforts to save the day for the Confederacy late in the Civil War.

But Groom is best remembered — or not remembered — for "Forrest Gump" and its sequel, "Gump & Co.," and "Gump's Diary," all involving a childlike accidental hero named for the Ku Klux Klan founder Nathan Bedford Forrest. Like his earlier works, the Gump books brim with an old-fashioned moralism, albeit one with a cynical streak: Groom deals freely with topics such as religion and patriotism and dispenses just off-center folk wisdom that turned Forrest Gump's America into an updated Norman Rockwell portrait as reflected in a fun-house mirror.

So it isn't surprising that Groom has moved into that most moralistic of genres, crime fiction, with his new nov-

el, "Such a Pretty, Pretty Girl." His Johnny Lightfoot has become the latest sleuth to work the turf stalked out by Raymond Chandler's Philip Marlowe and Ross Macdonald's Lew Archer and frequented by a group that includes Robert Crais's Elvis Cole, Dick Lochte's Leo Bloodworth, Roger L. Simon's Moses Wine and the assorted historical figures exhumed by James Ellroy. But Lightfoot differs from most of his precursors in that, at least metaphorically, he wears more expensive gunshoes.

In their offices on Hollywood and Sunset boulevards, Marlowe made do with a squeaky swivel chair and Archer with a sagging imitation-leather sofa. Not so enviable Lightfoot, an Academy Award-winning screenwriter, who works out of a suite at the Beverly Hills Peninsula (with another at the Carlyle in New York). He may have given up his Glenfiddich, but he still enjoys "a filleted slab of lemon-buttered sea bass," which he defines as "breakfast."

So why would he risk this fat life for the uncertain rewards of amateur detective work? It seems that he once fell hard for the beautiful Delia Jamison, a married Los Angeles news anchor who has been getting menacing notes from a viewer who demands that she perform subtle but titillating acts on the air. Delia fears that going to the police would result in leaks to tabloids and asks Lightfoot for help that he eagerly gives after sensing her rekindled romantic interest.

The sexual undertones of the anonymous mail lead the screenwriter to suspect the anchor's spurned lovers, who include a Wall Street investment banker,

a U.S. senator and a Chicago lawyer with ties to organized crime. As he crisscrosses the country tracking them down, Lightfoot begins to see Delia as "Doreen Gray, Dorian's kid sister," less innocent than he imagined. And — given her former consorts' links to Wall Street, the Senate and the mob — might a conspiracy be afoot?

Straddling the mystery and thriller realms, Groom has written a suspenseful novel that shows a mastery of the main convention of his form, high-octane plotting. But his undercharacterization of his hero is a potentially heavy flaw if the sleuth is to return in a series. Lightfoot, if he continues to solve crimes for free, needs a tough but humane core and a clear moral code to explain this altruism.

In "Such a Pretty, Pretty Girl," he comes across as a stuffy prig who takes "the red-eye, first class, of course, to La Guardia, cursing all the way at those environmentally righteous who had nixed transcontinental flights by the SST." Delia, for all his rapaciousness about her intelligence, emerges as more manipulative than brainy.

There's nothing inherently wrong with a conservative or well-off sleuth, as the pseudonymous Emma Lathen showed in mysteries about the Wall Street banker John Putnam Thatcher. But Thatcher's fierce devotion to protecting the interests of his bank supplied a steady motivation for his work.

Janice Harayda, whose first novel, "The Accidental Bride," will be published in June, wrote this for *The Washington Post*.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

JIM GRIFFIN earns his living as a computer consultant, working on the year 2000 problem. He recently found a bug in the complex Toad Club system that he plays with Ken Schutze.

In an early stage of the North American Open Pairs, in Texas, they went down 2,000 in a part-score contract. They fixed the bug so well that they won the title in Vancouver, British Columbia, and set a record. They are now three-time winners of an event that nobody else has won more than once. In second place were Tom Knist and Karen Walker. Adam Wildavsky and

Chris Willenken were third. On the diagrammed deal the Toad Club was at work. One club was strong and artificial, and North described a hand that had 2-3-5-3 distribution, 12-13 high-card points and 1 key-card. That meant one ace or the heart king, and finally he denied the heart queen.

South, whose bids were all artificial questions, settled in six hearts. When the spade 10 was led, Schutze played low from dummy. The king appeared, making it clear that the suit was split 6-1. This suggested that East would have most of the missing trumps, so South led to the heart ace and played the jack, finessing successfully. After removing East's

queen, South simply played the ace and another diamond and claimed the slam.

Notice that a diamond finesse would have succeeded but would not have been safe. If it lost, a spade return would have left the declarer with one way to avoid an eventual spade loser. If the trump finesse had failed, there would have been a trump in the dummy for an eventual spade ruff, and South would have needed a winning diamond finesse.

The opening event of the American Contract Bridge League's Spring Nationals, the Open Pairs, was won by Mike Passell and Michael Seamon. Bob and Petra Ham-

man placed second, and Rebecca Rogers and Bobby Wolff were third.

NORTH			
♠ Q4			
♥ A J 8			
♦ Q J 4 3 2			
♣ Q J 2			
WEST			
♠ 10 7 5 3			
♥ 7 3			
♦ 10 8 6			
♣ A 4 2			
EAST			
♠ K			
♥ Q 5 4			
♦ K 9 7			
♣ 10 9 6 7 6 5			
SOUTH (P)			
♠ A J 6 2			
♥ K 10 9 8 3 2			
♦ A 5			
♣ A 4			
East and West were vulnerable.			
South	West	North	East
1♠ Pass	2♠ Pass		
2NT Pass	3♠ Pass		
4♠ Pass	5♠ Pass		
6♠ Pass	6♠ Pass		
6♠ Pass	6♠ Pass		
West led the spade 10.			

Marijuana May Yield Medicines

By Susan Okie
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Marijuana is too dangerous to the lungs to make smoking it a safe long-term treatment for illness — but some of the active ingredients in the weed could sprout into a whole new family of medicines. Those are among the conclusions of a landmark report issued in March in the *United States on the medical uses of marijuana*, a topic that has pitted patients and pro-legislation activists against the federal government.

Marijuana's active ingredients belong to a chemical family called the cannabinoids. In recent years, scientists have found that these chemicals — as well as receptors on cell surfaces that respond to them — are found naturally in the brain, where they probably play a role in memory, control of movement and pain perception.

Scientific knowledge of cannabinoids has exploded, far outstripping the few well-conducted medical studies of marijuana's therapeutic effects in patients, according to the pair of scientists who headed the panel. Together, the new laboratory findings and the clinical results suggest that some cannabinoids could be developed into promising drugs for pain control, the relief of nausea and vomiting, and stimulation of appetite in people who have lost weight because of AIDS or other diseases.

Some patients smoke or eat marijuana to treat those problems, a situation that has produced conflict between states that want to legalize medical use of the drug and the federal government, which has opposed any legalization.

"There are real clinical opportunities" to develop new drugs from cannabinoids, said Stanley Watson, co-director of the Mental Health Research Institute at the University of Michigan and co-chairman of the panel that conducted the review for the Institute of Medicine, an independent advisory body.

The institute's report had been eagerly awaited by both sides in the debate over whether marijuana should be made legally available for people with certain intractable symptoms, such as nausea caused by chemotherapy or wasting associated with AIDS.

The panel concluded that some of marijuana's constituents are potentially effective therapies. Nevertheless, the report strongly opposes the use of smoked marijuana except in short-term scientific studies lasting less than six months, citing the dangers posed by tar, carcinogens and other substances present in the smoke.

"Numerous studies suggest that marijuana smoke is an important risk factor in the development of respiratory disease" and is associated with an increased risk of cancer, lung damage and poor pregnancy outcomes, the report states. It calls for the rapid development of an inhaler that could deliver cannabinoids into the lung — from which they are quickly absorbed into the bloodstream — thus allowing patients to obtain the desired effects without smoking.

The panel's co-chairman, John Benson, an emeritus professor of medicine at Oregon Health Sciences University, said cannabinoid drugs used as "analgesia pain relief, may be the biggest market for commercial exploitation."

Animal studies show that cannabinoids can relieve mild to moderate pain, working about as well as codeine. Because they

act upon a different set of brain receptors than the opiates (such as morphine and codeine), they are unlikely to have the same side effects and might be used in combination with opiate drugs. The report calls for additional human studies in this area, saying the few trials conducted in humans so far are inconclusive.

For nausea and vomiting caused by chemotherapy, cannabinoids are mildly effective, but for most patients, neither marijuana or THC (an active ingredient of marijuana) works as well as other anti-nausea drugs available, the report found. Those drugs are effective in more than 90 percent of patients, Dr. Benson said, while THC is effective only in about 25 percent. (THC, or dronabinol, sold under the brand name Marinol, is approved by the Food and Drug Administration for control of severe nausea in chemotherapy patients who do not respond to other drugs.)

The report recognizes the dilemma

faced by patients who have turned to marijuana because they cannot get relief from legal medicines, and said such patients "will find little comfort in a promise of a better drug 10 years from now."

In some states, people using marijuana to treat diseases such as AIDS or multiple sclerosis have been arrested. Eight states have laws permitting doctors to prescribe marijuana, and five more passed medical marijuana initiatives last fall. Under federal law, however, marijuana is classified as an illegal drug with no legitimate medical use; doctors can face prosecution for prescribing it, and patients for possessing it.

Greg Scott, 37, a Florida man with AIDS, said that smoking marijuana helped him gain weight and thus avoid having to be fed intravenously through a tube that carried a high risk of infection. "I am living proof that in some cases, smoking marijuana is a viable and beneficial alternative," he said.

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Consolidated prices for all shares traded during week ended Thursday, April 07

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Continued on Page 17

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CYBERSCAPE

The Lesson of Melissa: Privacy Has Its Price

Hidden Codes Helped Crack Virus Case

By John Markoff
New York Times Service

SAN FRANCISCO — Hidden in the Microsoft Word document that carried the Melissa virus around the world last week was an innocuous serial number that helped federal agents identify the computer responsible for the program.

The incident dramatically illustrated technology's growing power for promoting both good and evil. The serial number itself — known in computer parlance as a global unique identifier — lies at the heart of a continuing controversy over trade-offs between individual privacy rights and the common good.

The incident involving the Microsoft numbering system came just weeks after the company's partner, Intel Corp., announced that it was building serial numbers into each copy of its newest microprocessor, the Pentium III. The announcement touched off protests from privacy activists, who argue that such numbering spells the end of anonymity in cyberspace.

But computer engineers say that as computer networks become pervasive, similar numbering schemes are necessary for the networks themselves and for the functioning of increasingly sophisticated software systems.

In response, privacy rights experts say society has always found ways to balance its needs with the right to individual privacy. Published telephone numbers, for example, were later offset by the option of unlisted numbers.

Today the Web has seen an explosion of ambitious marketing organizations that have used the infrastructure in unforeseen ways to build remarkably invasive profiles of Internet surfers. By combining vast data bases with data-mining software to form something resembling a vast vacuum cleaner, these new automated systems are rapidly tracking as well as predicting human behavior. What advertisers have been doing on a mass scale for decades is now done one on one.

"The No. 1 threat today to privacy is not Big Brother, it's big bucks," said Amital Etzioni, a social scientist at George Washington University, who is the author of the newly published "Limits of Privacy" (Basic Books).

The invasiveness of such Internet data miners is balanced by the power of the technology to help track criminals, as Richard Smith showed last week by helping to identify the New Jersey man who was arrested and charged with

spreading the Melissa virus.

In March, Mr. Smith, who is president of Phar Lap Software Inc. in Cambridge, Massachusetts, publicized the existence of the serial number in Microsoft's Office documents. He raised ethical questions about the company's intention to automatically record such numbers in its data base. After his announcement, Microsoft immediately said it would stop the practice and erase the numbers — which it said were being collected in error — from its data base. Last week the company issued a software utility program enabling computer users to delete the numbers from their documents.

Mr. Smith, a computer hacker in the constructive sense of the word and an amateur sleuth, was able to compare the Melissa virus document's number with those in other documents posted on the Web.

His research paid off quickly last Thursday when state and federal officials arrested David Smith, a 30-year-old software programmer, and charged him with three offenses that together carry a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison and \$480,000 in fines.

Electronic identity is both useful and increasingly necessary in cyberspace, technology specialists say. "I think the psychology surrounding this debate is very interesting," said Jim Waldo of Sun Microsystems Inc., who helped design an early predecessor to Microsoft's software numbering system. "People want anonymity, but at the same time they want to track everyone else."

Privacy activists are concerned that electronic information will be misused by law enforcement. There is a simple solution, they argue.

"The general approach is to collect the minimum of personally identifiable information possible and to explore new techniques that permit authentication without identification," said Marc Rotenberg of the Electronic Privacy Information Center.

Privacy rights must be balanced against the common good, said Mr. Etzioni, who worries about the growing computing powers of Internet marketing companies. "Their data bases have more information about people than the Stasi secret police ever had about the East Germans," he said.

E-mail address:
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The 'Sport' of Virus Writing

With Models From Web, Even Amateurs Can Play

By Matt Richtel
and John Markoff
New York Times Service

In the world of cyberspace, the sport of virus writing is a hobby with a growing following. Virus writers trade malicious code, combine efforts to break the work of anti-virus researchers, and post their creations on the Internet for anyone to download and release into the wild.

"It's like candy — a child can get these, a 12-year-old can get these," said Sarah Gordon, a researcher for IBM who spent five years investigating the virus-writing subculture. She said it required little technical expertise to introduce a virus once it was obtained.

"It's trivial," she said. "All you do is download it to a computer, click on it, and there you go."

The International Computer Security Association, an industry corporation based in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, estimated last year that there were 15,000 to 20,000 viruses in circulation, with 1,000 emerging each month.

Only a small number are widely circulated, or "make it into the wild," in the industry vernacular.

But their proliferation has given rise to a highly competitive industry of companies that seek out the latest strains and find market software antidotes.

As opposed to hacking, or breaking into computer systems, which can demand a range of skill levels, virus writing traditionally required a narrower, more technically oriented background.

But in recent years, virus writing has attracted a less technically adept group, who can copy the simple templates that are increasingly available on the Web. (In the underground, these copycats are known as script kiddies or scripters.)

Some computer security experts have suggested that David Smith, the New Jersey man arrested in the Melissa case Friday, coiled together his own virus code with virus templates he found on the Web.

But despite the bad publicity around their hobby, virus writers contend that not all of them have malicious motives. Some say they are attracted to virus writing as an intellectual endeavor — to deconstruct programming code, see how it works, and poke holes in it.

"The idea that all of us out there are malicious teenagers is quite a fallacy," said a longtime virus writer known as Attitude Adjuster, who was contacted by e-mail and declined to give his real name.

"There are those of us who still exist in the community who write viruses because it's fun. We don't give our viruses to the public and nobody gets hurt."



Dan Murta, after spending 32 years in the oil industry, lost his job as vice president with a small independent oil company. He said that he was now reduced to earning little more than the minimum wage as a telemarketer.

A Dry Spell for Small U.S. Oil Producers

Despite Higher Prices, Independent Firms Are Wary of Reopening Wells

By Agis Salpukas
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Even after a 30 percent jump in crude oil prices last month, Terry Smith, the general manager of the Tideland Oil Production Co., is not sure it is time to begin reopening wells.

Tideland has 834 wells off the coast of Long Beach, California, but it shut down 327 of them the last year as oil prices plunged.

Prices had been so low for so long that Mr. Smith is reluctant to spend the \$30,000 it takes to bring a well back and rehire workers, even though he says he makes a profit when prices are \$10 a barrel.

West Texas intermediate crude oil traded at above \$17 a barrel this week for the first time in more than a year, largely on the strength of cutbacks announced by big oil producers last month.

But Mr. Smith's cash has been depleted, he has laid off a third of his workers and, as with thousands of other small, independent producers, he is worried that prices might collapse again. "I want to see if this thing is going to stabilize," he said in a telephone interview.

Independent oil companies like Tideland account for 40 percent of the oil produced in the United States. Many are facing the same kinds of hard choices that Mr. Smith confronts. While they have seen many downturns, the last year has hit them particularly hard, with crude prices at a low of \$10.35 a barrel in December. Their problems make it unlikely that domestic production, which hit a 50-year low of about 6 million barrels a day last month, will recover soon.

Those that have suffered most and will have the hardest time recovering are the very small producers. They typically own about 10 so-called stripper wells — the type often glimpsed from highways across the American West, the pumps slowly hobbling up and down, extracting

about 2.2 barrels a day at each unit from old and often declining fields.

Although they produce very small amounts individually, together they account for 1.3 million barrels a day. That is about 20 percent of domestic output and roughly the amount the United States imports daily from Saudi Arabia.

While lower crude oil prices have enabled consumers to enjoy some of the lowest gasoline prices in decades, and cheap oil has contributed to low inflation, those working in the domestic oil industry have paid a heavy price for these benefits.

About 52,000 jobs have been lost since October 1997 in oil and natural gas production, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Many of these will not be replaced.

There are 574,000 oil wells in the nation capable of producing an average total of 6.4 million barrels a day, but about 136,000 of them have been shut temporarily. Of those wells, which are capable of producing about 550,000 barrels a day, some oil economists and industry experts predict that up to half

could be abandoned.

The loss of production could turn out to be as high as 400,000 barrels a day. Some experts say many wells that will be restarted are likely to produce at lower rates because of equipment and technical problems.

Such a large loss of output means that domestic oil production is expected to continue to decline even if prices maintain their current levels. Last month, imported oil made up more than 55 percent of the United States supply, one of the highest levels ever, and increasing dependence on imported oil is likely to continue.

Mr. Smith said most of the 65 workers he had laid off had found other jobs in the strong California economy and would not return to the volatile oil industry.

Others are not so lucky. After spending 32 years in the oil industry, Dan Murta lost his job as vice president with Tomkat Ltd., a small independent oil company based in Wichita, Kansas. From a salary of \$45,000 a year, he said, he was now reduced to earning little more than minimum wage as a telemarketer.

Wallenberg Empire Opens Door to Change

Swedish Giant Bows to Global Forces

By Alan Cowell
New York Times Service

STOCKHOLM — Since the mid-19th century, Swedish industry has been synonymous with the Wallenberg family. The dynasty's interests reach everywhere, from heavy trucks and mobile phones at home to construction sites in Asia and board rooms in the United States.

As one measure of the Wallenbergs' power in Sweden, their holding company, Investor AB, controls companies that account for an estimated 40 percent of shares traded on the Stockholm stock exchange.

But like Sweden itself, the Wallenberg business empire is under siege these days by the forces of the global economy.

"We were suddenly subject to all the competitive powers in the world," said Jacob Wallenberg, 43, chairman of the investor-owned company Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB, who, along with his cousin Marcus Wallenberg, also 43, represents the family's newest generation of top managers.

In an unyielding global economy of free-flowing money, international mergers and an intense focus on "core competencies" and shareholder value, the Wallenberg family conglomerate, with its disparate and far-flung interests, has been looking increasingly like an anachronism.

"Investor's traditional strategy — as a long-term dominant and active owner across a range of sectors based on a slowly changing or unchanging portfolio — is rotatable," wrote Sweden's leading weekly business magazine, Affarsvärlden.

But the Wallenbergs are hardly sitting idle while the economic ground shifts under their feet. Rather, they are restructuring key parts of their empire, particularly in forestry and pharmaceuticals, to make it more international. In a change from tradition, the head of the family business, Percy Barnevik, is not a member of the family.

In 1997, the family patriarch, Peter Wallenberg, stepped down as chairman of Investor AB, though not as head of the Wallenberg family foundation that controls 35.6 percent of Investor's voting rights. The top jobs of chairman and chief executive of Investor went to Mr. Barnevik, 58, and Claes Dahlbäck, 52.

In February, the company said that Mr. Dahlbäck, who has been the Wallenberg family's top nonfamily manager for years, would retire in April and be replaced by Marcus Wallenberg as chief executive.

Peter Wallenberg's departure opened the way for the beginnings of a rapid transformation under Mr. Barnevik, who made a name for himself with the success of the 1987 Swedish-Swiss merger that created ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd.

Mr. Barnevik, who remains chairman of ABB but is no longer chief executive there, seemed perfect for the job of running Investor. Indeed, ABB, the engineering behemoth based in Zurich, was acclaimed as one of the world's first truly borderless companies.

In his short period at the helm of Investor, Mr. Barnevik has installed tighter corporate governance in clubby Sweden and loosened the Wallenbergs' grip on Swedish industry.

For years, the Wallenbergs had solidified their power at many Swedish companies not so much by acquiring majority equity stakes but by creating special voting rights for themselves that, in some cases, were as much as 1,000 times their actual holdings.

"More and more players in the capital market would say that peculiar capital structures make for peculiar decisions," Jacob Wallenberg said.

At some companies, Investor reduced its voting-power advantage to 10-fold, a more defensible level that nonetheless left the Wallenbergs in effective control even with a minority interest. The balance between stock and voting rights is a

Dynasty

The Wallenberg family owns a holding company, Investor AB, which controls an estimated 40 percent of the wealth in the Swedish stock market.

INVESTOR AB'S MAIN INTERESTS	As of Dec. 31, 1998	EQUITY STAKE	COMPANY CONTROL (VOTING RIGHTS)
ABB Engineering		10%	19%
ASTRA Pharmaceuticals		11%	13%
ATLAS COPCO Construction and Industrial equipment		15%	21%
ELECTROLUX Household appliances		4%	21%
ERICSSON Telecommunications		3%	22%
GAMMA Medical Technology		20%	28%
OM GROUP Financial Markets		11%	11%
SAAB Military aircraft and aerospace		20%	36%
SAS Airline		19%	19%
SEB Banking		8%	9%
SCANIA Heavy trucks		26%	42%
SKF Ball bearings		13%	30%
STORA ENSO Forestry products		10%	11%
WIM-DATA Data Services		13%	6%

Source: Investor AB

Illustrations by Jody Emery/N.Y. Times News Service

CURRENCY RATES

April 1-2									
Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
London (U)	1.605	2.3698	191.85	2.4148	11.0343	48.47	13.1923		
New York (U)	1.6036	1.4793	120.445	1.497	6.8917	302.22	6.2178		
Tokyo	120.55	193.30	81.44	80.31	17.51	N.Q.	14.66		
Toronto	1.5057	2.4148	1.0188	1.2597	0.2189	0.4986	0.1831		
Zurich	1.4745	2.3673	1.2348	0.9605	21.4868	0.4894	0.1797		
One euro	1.0772	0.672	1.5973	129.85	1.6162	7.4317	326.30	8.8811	
One SDR	1.258	0.8432	2.0117	161.53	2.038	N.Q.	412.26	11.26	

Source: Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo); Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto); Banque de France (Paris); IMF (SDR). Other data from Reuters.

European Cross Rates

April 1-2									
Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$	Currency	Per \$
London (U)	1.605	2.3698	191.85	2.4148	11.0343	48.47	13.1923		
New York (U)	1.6036	1.4793	120.445	1.497	6.8917	302.22	6.2178		
Tokyo	120.55	193.30	81.44	80.31	17.51	N.Q.	14.66		
Toronto	1.5057	2.4148	1.0188	1.2597	0.2189	0.4986	0.1831		
Zurich	1.4745	2.3673	1.2348	0.9605	21.4868	0.4894	0.1797		

U.S. MUTUAL FUNDS

Figures as of close
of trading Thursday, April 01

[illegible]

This table shows the performance of Nasdaq-listed mutual funds through Friday and includes the top 10 funds in terms of assets. There are roughly 6,199 funds currently listed on Nasdaq.

Group names are shown in bold face, with individual fund names in each group indented below. Funds that are not part of a group are not indented.

HAV is the net asset value, i.e. the portfolio value divided by the number of shares outstanding, as reported by the fund through Nasdaq. **HAV** excludes all sales or redemption charges. Change above the notation from the previous Friday.

Home Field funds: c = available only through mutual fund plans; n = no front-end load or contingent deferred sales load; s = assets are sold through a distribution company; r = redemption fee or contingent deferred sales load may apply; t = front-end p and r apply.

Price field footnotes: e = ex capital gains and

International Small-Cap Funds Rebound

By Rick Gladstone
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — South Korean beer, Japanese pinball, a globe-trotting British cybergame entrepreneur who wears tight T-shirts and packs two pistols.

The companies that make these products are small and diverse, off the radar screens of many investors. But the forces behind the atrocity gains in their shares help explain why international small-capitalization funds were an outstanding global fund category in the first three months of the year.

Among portfolio managers who specialize in buying shares of non-U.S. companies, the most successful in the first quarter were those who researched and cherry-picked their way through lesser-known equities, especially the stocks hurt by the persistence of the Asian economic crisis and Japan's deep recession.

While international stock funds as a group rose 2.5 percent in the quarter, many small-cap international funds had double-digit gains. These funds are volatile by nature, and are not for everyone. Many suffered large losses when the Asian crisis began in mid-1997, and it is unclear, of course, whether the advances in the most recent quarter are sustainable.

At the Oakmark International Small Cap fund, David Herro is heavily invested in Asia, Australia and New Zealand. He said he began

to build up his positions during the third quarter of 1997, although the fund fell nearly 20 percent that year, it rose 9.2 percent in 1998 and 24.6 percent in the first three months of 1999.

"We use a style that tries to buy good-quality businesses with good-quality management at burnt-out prices," he said. When markets were dropping in Hong Kong, South Korea and Thailand, he added, "most managers, to be frank, chickened out."

INVESTING

"We thought this was a unique opportunity," he said. "Rarely do you get a chance to buy something at 10 to 15 cents on the dollar."

One of his favorite picks is Hite Brewery Co., a South Korean beer maker that is the domestic market leader. Its shares have quadrupled in value since he bought them and are up 80 percent so far this year.

He also likes Hong Kong-based Giordano International Ltd., a leading retailer of casual clothing in Asia. The stock rose 65 percent in the first quarter. Buying up Giordano shares, he said, "was just a no-brainer."

Mr. Herro, based in Chicago, says the seven analysts on his team spend about half their time in Asia, researching and visiting companies. Unlike many of his competitors, Mr. Herro said, he is not afraid of wild swings in Asian markets.

As its name implies, the Warburg

Pincus Japan Small Company fund is 100 percent invested in Japan, a country struggling with heavy bank debts and the worst recession since World War II. Although that may sound like a recipe for disappointment and disaster, the fund's results suggest otherwise.

While the fund fell 1.1 percent in 1995, its first year, and lost 13 percent in 1996, and 25 percent in 1997, it gained more than 12 percent last year and rose 35.8 percent in the first quarter of 1999.

"There is increasing excitement that perhaps Japan has turned the corner, that the government has its hands around the key issues, that perhaps the economy is near bottom," said Todd Jacobson, the fund's associate portfolio manager. "This has set the stage, once the economy has stabilized, for exponential growth."

Shares in a diverse range of small Japanese companies already have benefited from this expectation, he said, partly because many started moving some time ago to cut costs and become more efficient.

Among his favorites in this category are makers of pachinko machines, a version of pinball that is as common in Japan as the sushi bar. Mr. Jacobson said he liked Aruze Corp., Heiwa Corp. and Sankyo Company-Gamma, which are replacing many aging pachinko machines throughout the country. Aruze's shares have risen 27 percent since Mr. Jacobson began buying them in February. Heiwa has risen 38 per-

cent, while Sankyo has risen 47 percent.

Mr. Jacobson also likes companies that are venturing onto the Internet, which is in relatively early stages of development in Japan.

Unlike many American stocks in the sector, Japanese Internet share prices appear reasonable. Since February, when he bought shares of JAC Co., which sells used cars over the Internet, the company's stock is up 30 percent.

At the T. Rowe Price International Discovery fund, Justin Thomson also sees enormous potential value in small Japanese companies that have been battered by the country's slump. His fund, which has about half its investments in Europe, began increasing its Japanese holdings last October, to 25 percent from 15 percent.

Among his picks in Japan are Nidec Corp., a provider of hard disk drives for personal computers, and Nemle-Lambda K.K., a maker of switches and power components. After hitting bottom in early October, Nidec rose 64 percent and Nemle-Lambda had climbed 140 percent by the end of the quarter.

Part of the reason for increasing his exposure to Japan, he said, is what he called the "valuation effect" — some of these stocks could not fall much further.

The bet on Japan has paid off. After falling nearly 6 percent in 1997,



Mr. Herro says investors who can stand risk can find attractive Asian shares.

the fund rose more than 6 percent last year, and was up 15 percent in the first three months of 1999.

Mr. Jacobson, based in London, said he saw a similar turnaround trend among small British companies whose stocks fell sharply in the third and fourth quarters of 1998. In his view, that was a good time to be buying them. Among his favorite British picks is Eidos PLC, the company that created the best-selling Tomb Raider series and its action heroine, Lara Croft. Since his fund bought Eidos shares in the third quarter, they have nearly tripled.

"This is a fantastic growth industry," he said. With the surge in ownership of personal computers, the popularity of Nintendo Co. and Sony Corp.'s Playstation and the excitement over its Playstation II, he said, "demand for high-quality games is very, very high."

WALLENBERG: Facing Global Rivalry, Swedish Family Empire Embraces Need to Restructure

Continued from Page 13

stake in its aerospace division to British Aerospace PLC for \$454 million. Saab also announced plans to close a civilian regional aircraft unit at the end of this year.

Late last year, Stora AB, Investor's forest-products group, announced a \$6.9 billion merger with its Finnish rival, Enso Oy, to produce a giant based in Helsinki, not Stockholm.

Those deals were intended to give the company a competitive edge in increasingly global businesses. Investor insiders say the wave of restructuring is far from over. At the same time, Investor's ramparts no longer seem as immune to assault as they once did.

In January, Volvo AB, which is not a Wallenberg company but is run by a former Wallenberg manager, Leif Johansson, bought a 12.85 percent chunk of stock in Scania

AB, the Wallenberg-controlled truck company. Such a challenge to the Wallenbergs, once unthinkable, could only have been undertaken with the help of key institutional investors.

But the once improbable has become commonplace all across the corporate landscape as the barriers that once kept Swedish businesses in Swedish hands crumble. For most of the century, entrepreneurs have ventured out from Stockholm in search of profitable opportunities to enhance their sheltered home base. That business energy enabled Sweden to become one of the world's richest countries and to afford a costly cradle-to-grave social safety net.

Now, the trend has been reversed. Sweden's per-capita income has plummeted to No. 17 in the world from No. 3 over the past two decades, and its welfare-state cocoon has unraveled under assault from

outside forces and internal stresses.

Corporate executives and college graduates have been seeking jobs in Britain and the United States, fleeing in record numbers from Sweden's punishing personal tax rates, which go up to 60 percent.

LM Ericsson AB, the Swedish mobile-phone maker that is under severe competitive pressure from Nokia Corp. of Finland, has joined the exodus. A big element of the Investor portfolio, Ericsson will move its European headquarters and corporate finance department to London in August.

There, the argument runs, executives prefer to pay lower taxes and live closer to Europe's biggest capital markets.

In the past, the very breadth of Investor's holdings underpinned the Wallenbergs' dominance in Swedish business. But as it confronts pressure for restructuring, its stake in the companies in its stable,

and thus its control of them, stands to be reduced.

Moreover, Swedish analysts say that the structure of the family fortune, which is held in a tax-exempt trust, leaves Investor few options but to shed its equity stake in some companies to concentrate on those it regards as essential businesses. Its further challenge will be to catch the wave of new high-technology businesses that younger Swedes see as the future.

Mr. Barnevik, once viewed as a corporate magician, now faces unaccustomed criticism from Swedish commentators questioning his touch ever since Investor took a big hit from the economic tailspin in Asia and Russia last year.

Investor shares ended last week in Stockholm at 362 kronor (\$44.05), down from a high of 479.50 kronor last July 2.

The erosion of the Wallenberg empire has led to speculation that

other Investor interests, including parts of its original 19th-century base, SEB, may be on the block.

"It is increasingly difficult to play the part of an active owner once control of commercial enterprises is diluted," Mr. Dahlback told Affarsvarlden early this year.

"And if we cannot perform as active owners, we would prefer to get out."

Others argue that the future of the Wallenberg dynasty depends on a broader alchemy that permits Investor to exercise control through the appointment of key managers and directors and draws on the readiness of institutional investors to follow the holding company's lead.

"It's not just a numbers game," Mr. Barnevik said. "It's a game of confidence from the institutions that you are a good owner whether you own X percent or two times X percent. It's a question of how well you do the job."

SHORT COVER

Shipbuilder Braces for Walkout

NEWPORT NEWS, Virginia (Bloomberg) — Newport News Shipbuilding Inc., a maker of nuclear aircraft carriers, said 9,000 hourly workers — about half its work force — might strike Monday after a union voice vote Sunday in support of a walkout.

The company said it had made a final offer to the United Steelworkers of America's Local 8888 after two months of negotiating a contract to replace one that expired at midnight Sunday.

Hypo-Bank Executive to Resign

FRANKFURT (Reuters) — A key supervisory board member of HypoVereinsbank AG will resign this week over a boardroom dispute that has overshadowed Germany's biggest bank merger since World War II, according to a weekend newspaper report.

Eberhard Martini, the former chief executive of Hypo-Bank, which merged with rival Vereinsbank last year, will announce his departure during the week, Welt am Sonntag said in a report released ahead of its publication Sunday.

China's Rules on Overseas Listings

BEIJING (Reuters) — China has tightened rules on 43 of its companies listed overseas to protect the interests of foreign investors, state media reported.

The rules, consisting of 11 articles, require the companies to improve transparency and bar government shareholders from meddling in the operations of companies, the Xinhua press agency said Saturday.

FCC Chief Offers Merger Guidance

WASHINGTON (NYT) — In a rare public step, the chairman of the Federal Communications Commission has encouraged Ameritech Corp. and SBC Communications Inc. to help draw up terms that would promote competition so that the commission can approve the companies' pending \$62 billion merger.

William Kennard, the chairman, said in a letter to the chairmen of the two local telephone companies that "at this stage, I have serious concerns" about whether the deal would serve the public interest.

He said the commission's staff wanted assurances that the merger would not interfere with the companies' ability to open their networks to competitors.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of the letter was that it was made public at all. People close to the commission said Friday that the FCC traditionally had tried to shield its talks with companies whose mergers it is considering from the light of publicity, believing that privacy fosters candor.

Day-Trade Adviser's Challenge

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — The founder of the Day Traders On-Line Internet stock-tip site has reinstated a \$1 million reward challenging anyone to prove in court that the Web operator took payments from companies to recommend their shares.

The \$1 million offer, made on the Day Traders On-Line Web site by Ray Johns, followed a report that the site was being investigated by the Securities and Exchange Commission. Mr. Johns removed the offer for a few hours Friday, saying he meant it as a joke but then reinstated it.

The SEC inquiry focuses on whether Mr. Johns or any of his employees received compensation in connection with their stock tips, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing unnamed sources. Neither Mr. Johns nor the SEC would confirm or deny the existence of an investigation.

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Wherever you are. Whatever you do. The Allianz Group is always on your side. To us risk management means thinking the unthinkable to prevent risk turning into loss. As one of the world's leading insurers our financial strength and technical expertise combine to make Allianz Group the partner you can trust whenever and wherever you need us. Allianz. The Power On Your Side.

Allianz Group, Europe's leading global insurer and provider of financial services.

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CAPITAL MARKETS ON MONDAY

Wall Street's Blind Hope?
Investors Ignore War and Earnings SlowdownBy Gretchen Morgenson
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — It was the subject of considerable head-scratching among investors last week that even as the Dow Jones industrial average was closing above 10,000 for the first time, an already grim situation in Kosovo was getting worse. While the euro tumbled on bulletins from the front, the Dow ended the week up 10 points, at 9,832.51. Its relative ebullience in the face of horrors overseas seemed oddly disconnected, at best.

Investors seem happy to shrug off the Kosovo conflict as one that will be contained, both geographically and economically. That may be so, but this wishful thinking is but one example of how cavalier investors are today. Only when trouble hits them in the face do they react and dump stocks.

Consider the data on Wednesday from the Commerce Department, which showed a growing economy producing smaller corporate profits. While the economy grew almost 4 percent last year, profits fell 2.2 percent.

One might think that with the overall market trading at a rich 34 times earnings, plugging profits would frighten investors. But the Dow only hiccuped, falling 1.3 percent on the day of the news, then recovering a bit the next day.

Unfailing optimism is a splendid and very American trait. It is also a result of a long bull market. If stocks rise inexorably, many believe, there's no need to sweat the details.

But what many investors have forgotten is that attention to detail can sometimes signal a timely exit, before pie hits face.

An example? Dell Computer, until recently a member of the stocks-that-only-go-up club. Now, after two disappointing quarters, investors are starting to question Dell's prospects. The shares are down almost 25 percent from their highs.

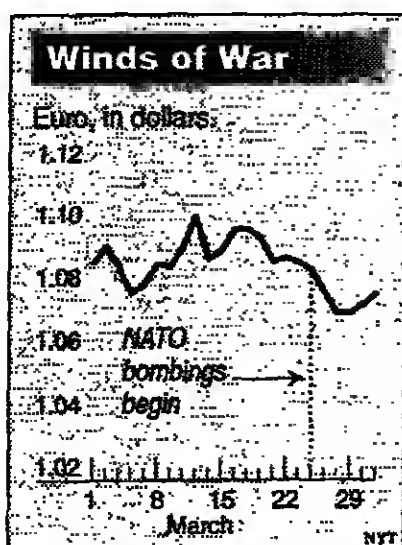
What's been plaguing Dell's shares recently does not qualify as news. Watchful investors have known for months that Dell's dominance in the mail-order personal computer business is under attack from Compaq and IBM, which have begun selling their products directly to customers as well. And it is no mystery that the only real growth in PC sales today is among computers that sell for \$1,000 or less. Dell's products carry much higher prices — on average more than \$2,000.

Another case of investors with their heads in the sand involved Coca-Cola, a former highflier that is 19 percent off its recent peak.

The company shocked Wall Street when it warned on Monday that first-quarter global sales would drop 1 percent to 2 percent. In the days following the news, Coca-Cola's shares fell 6.7 percent. With most of the world's economies contracting, why a sales decline surprised investors is a conundrum indeed.

What would it take to make investors pay closer heed to the various straws in the wind? A series of scandals, said Richard Sylla, professor of financial and economic history at New York University's Stern School of Business. "If you get several Sunbeams and Cendant, then people may begin to say, 'This is not real,'" he said.

In the meantime, investors who keep buying stocks in the face of troubling fundamentals are likely to do some



damage to the overall market when they finally head for the exits. As the handful of popular companies that are still moving up gets smaller, it grows less likely that these stocks can hold up the market averages. And unless the former favorites are replaced by other stocks with fabulous prospects, the indexes could be in for a tumble.

Lindsey Predicts Dow Retreat

A former governor of the Federal Reserve Board was quoted on Sunday as predicting a fall in U.S. share prices and saying that the Dow Jones industrial average, at 10,000 points, would be a realistic level, Reuters reported from Frankfurt.

Lawrence Lindsey told the German newspaper Euro am Sonntag that corporate earnings could not possibly continue to outpace gross domestic product growth as they had done throughout the 1990s.

"I expect a slowdown in earnings this year. That means that share prices will fall," said Mr. Lindsey, co-chairman of the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

Bright Outlook for High-Yield Bonds

Compiled by Our Staff From Despatches

NEW YORK — High-yield corporate debt and mortgage securities, among the worst performers in the U.S. bond market last year, rebounded in the first quarter and may have further to gain, according to bond investors.

Non-government bonds beat Treasuries in the first three months of the year as returning stability in financial markets, growth in the U.S. economy and dimming prospects for a fourth cut in interest rates by the Federal Reserve Board boosted the appeal of riskier securities that offer higher yields than government debt.

With the economy still humming along and the Fed seeing holding interest rates steady for months to come, investors said the chances of big gains in Treasuries are slim. That may mean that what worked in the first quarter may prove to be the recipe for gains in the second quarter as well.

While the extra yield these securities offer helped boost returns, the decline in government securities — the benchmark for the broader market — made returns too even the best-performing bonds less than stellar.

Treasuries soared Friday after a report showing a smaller-than-expected gain in jobs and wages in March eased concern that the economy's strength might push prices higher. The government said 46,000 jobs were added to the economy

in March, marking the slowest growth in more than three years, while average hourly earnings rose a less-than-expected 0.2 percent. The yield on the 30-year Treasury bond tumbled 8 basis points Friday to 5.59 percent, leaving it unchanged for the week.

This year, demand for high-yield bonds improved as the Fed's three-quarter-point rate cuts since September helped settle financial markets.

Differences in yield, or spreads, between junk bonds and Treasuries narrowed in the quarter to 5.35 percentage points from as wide as 6.80 percentage

points last year. Still, spreads are almost double their level at the start of 1998.

In addition to calming fears about a surge in manufacturing, the jobs report showed once again that the economy seems to be able to grow strongly without generating inflationary pressures. One of the key measures of wage inflation, hourly earnings, rose just two-tenths of 1 percent last month, the same pace as in February.

"Here we get another report saying the economy is strong and labor is tight," said James E. Glassman, an economist at Chase Manhattan Bank. "But there is no inflationary imbalance." The reason, he said, is that with the rest of the world growing sluggishly or worse,

competition is preventing U.S. companies from making price increases stick. But analysts agreed that the low March job growth, which was clearly held back by bad weather and was well below Wall Street forecasts of 140,000, did not confirm that the economy was slowing much from the 6 percent pace of growth in the fourth quarter of last year.

Because of this uncertainty, interest rates are likely to remain in their recent trading range, with long-term rates centered around 5.5 percent. They first jumped to this level in February after it became clear that the economy entered 1999 at a much stronger pace than expected and would not slow down quickly, as many Wall Street economists had forecast at the end of last year.

"There are elements of moderation coming through, but it is not very compelling yet," said Mr. Glassman, whose forecast for the year is one of the slower predictions on Wall Street.

Some investors and analysts predict Treasuries may be ripe for a rebound in the second quarter. This will come as slowing worldwide growth and stepped-up competition reduces pricing power, crimps corporate profits and prompts companies to cut back on business investment. Others said further improvement in non-government securities may be limited, given how much spreads narrowed in the first quarter.

(Bloomberg, NYT)

Most Active International Bonds

The 250 most active international bonds traded through the Euroclear system for the week ending April 1. Prices supplied by Telekurs.

British Pound

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
178	Paribas	6%	04/07/02	104.7500	5.5000
184	Unicredit	6%	07/07/02	104.7500	5.5000
185	Thorn	6%	07/07/02	104.7500	5.5000
234	ELB	6%	07/07/02	104.7500	5.5000
247	Wessex Water	5%	03/03/09	99.1250	5.9100

Danish Krone

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
35	Danmark	6%	11/15/09	113.7300	5.2800
52	Danmark	7%	11/15/07	113.7300	5.8600
54	Danmark	7%	12/15/04	113.7300	6.4400
55	Danmark	7%	11/15/06	108.2300	6.2700
73	Danmark	6%	01/15/08	121.1000	6.4000
74	Danmark	6%	02/15/01	101.2233	6.9500
76	Nykredit	6%	10/01/02	104.7500	5.5000
81	Danmark	6%	05/15/02	114.2300	6.1600
81	Danmark	6%	12/15/09	101.2300	5.9000
85	Danmark	6%	11/15/01	111.2300	7.1800
105	Danmark	6%	08/15/02	108.2300	6.1600
141	Nykredit	7%	10/01/02	101.2300	6.8900
158	Danmark	7%	11/15/09	98.1383	3.2300
160	Danmark	7%	11/15/02	113.7300	5.5000
174	Danmark	7%	11/15/02	125.4000	5.5700
183	Realcredit	6%	01/15/02	101.2300	6.8900
200	Unikredit	6%	02/15/02	101.2300	6.8900
221	Realcredit	6%	02/15/02	101.2300	6.8900
223	Realcredit	6%	02/15/02	101.2300	6.8900
250	Unikredit	7%	10/01/02	101.2300	6.9000

Deutsche Mark

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
144	Germany	5%	04/14/99	101.8250	4.3400
154	ELB	5%	04/15/08	105.7500	4.7300
233	TVA	6%	09/10/04	114.5000	5.5700

Euro

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
1	Germany	5%	01/04/09	98.2595	3.8200
2	Germany	5%	01/04/08	109.0124	4.8200
3	Germany	6%	07/04/07	113.9700	5.2400
4	Germany	4%	07/04/08	105.8513	4.4900
5	Germany	4%	07/04/08	101.1274	4.0800
6	Germany	4%	01/04/09	100.1816	4.0000
7	Germany	3%	03/14/01	100.2492	2.9900
8	Germany	5%	01/04/08	109.0124	4.8200
9	Germany	4%	01/04/07	113.9700	5.2400
10	Germany	3%	01/15/02	103.0825	3.0800
11	Germany	8%	01/15/02	113.0825	7.0800
12	Germany	7%	12/20/02	113.5354	6.2700
13	Germany	7%	02/15/02	102.0704	6.1000
14	Germany	4%	07/04/08	95.3832	4.9800
15	Germany	6%	07/04/07	122.7017	5.3000
17	Germany	3%	12/15/00	102.2528	2.9900
18	Treasury	7%	10/01/02	114.4750	6.7400
19	Germany	6%	05/15/02	104.8714	4.2500
20	France	3%	07/15/04	100.7000	3.8000
21	Treasury	6%	01/15/02	113.9700	6.4000
22	Germany	6%	01/15/02	104.3900	4.3100
23	Germany	6%	01/05/06	112.3353	5.3000
24	Germany	7%	01/05/06	115.4650	6.1700
25	Treasury	7%	01/25/02	113.7300	6.2600
26	Germany	9%	10/20/05	109.0200	8.2600
27	Germany	6%	04/05/06	115.8400	5.4700
29	Germany	5%	08/22/06	103.8400	5.5400
31	Germany	6%	02/15/05	112.5557	5.3500
32	Germany	5%	12/25/00	109.7900	5.0800
33	Treasury	6%	02/22/02	112.2641	5.7900
34	France	4%	04/25/09	99.1800	4.0300
36	Germany	4%	02/18/03	104.4131	4.3000
37	Germany	7%	10/21/02	113.4457	6.3900
38	Germany	7%	01/14/07	113.4990	6.2700
39	Germany	4%	01/14/05	116.0471	5.6000
40	Germany	5%	11/20/02	105.9739	4.7200
41	Germany	4%	07/15/03	112.4700	5.7700
42	Germany	5%	08/20/01	113.0000	7.4000
43	Germany	6%	02/22/03	112.9871	5.9700
44	Germany	6%	07/15/04	115.6221	5.8400
45	Germany	4%	01/15/02	113.0000	5.2900
50	Germany	4%	09/17/99	104.0400	3.9800
51	Germany	4%	02/22/02	104.0500	4.3000

Italian Lira

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
210	ELB	5%	04/15/08	104.7000	4.7800

Swedish Krona

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
139	Sweden	10%	05/05/00	107.5300	9.5300
153	Sweden	5%	01/15/04	104.0100	4.7200
164	Sweden	5%	04/15/02	104.5700	5.1700

Swiss Franc

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
230	Swiss Group	0.5%	03/25/06	97.5000	0.5100

U.S. Dollar

Rnk	Name	Cpa	Maturity	Price	Crt Yd
14	Brazil	5%	04/15/14	15.7500	6.4000
28	Brazil	5%	04/15/04	71.0907	8.2000
30	Argentina	6%	03/20/05	77.4937	6.0000
40	Brazil	6%	04/01/01	64.1813	9.4200
48	AT & T	6%	03/15/09	99.1250	6.0500
52	Mediacom	11%	03/15/06	111.5000	10.0100
54	Venezuela	5%	04/15/14	73.9636	6.7600
59	AT & T	5%	03/15/04	101.8994	5.5200
61	Argentina	6%	04/15/01	97.8600	8.0000
62	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700
63	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700
64	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700
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96	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700
97	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700
98	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700
99	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700
100	Argentina	5%	03/15/02	92.5000	8.2700

Last Week's Markets

Stock Indexes				Money Rates	
Index	April 2	Mar 26	% Chg	U.S. 3-month	April 2
DJ Index	9,832.51	9,832.51	+0.10	U.S. 6-month	5.59
DJ Ind	9,832.51	9,832.51	+0.10	U.S. 9-month	5.59
DJ Tech	9,832.51	9,832.51	+0.10	U.S. 12-month	5.59
DJ Ind	9,832.51	9,832.51	+0.10	U.S. 12-month	5.59
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(Continued)

DENNIS THE MENACE

NO, DENNIS! YOU MAY NOT HAVE YOUR MEN! TO GO!

PEANUTS

THAT'S LIFE... PEOPLE GO AWAY, AND DOES STAY HOME...

AND STAY HOME, AND STAY HOME, AND STAY HOME...

CALVIN AND HOBBES

WHAT DO THEY THINK I AM, AN ENGINEER? LOOK, I'VE GOT TO INSERT THESE WIRES AND THIS PLASTIC SWITCH! I CAN'T DO THIS!

HERE, LET ME TRY!

NO! GET AWAY! I'LL DO IT! YOU PROBABLY GOOF IT ALL UP, OR...

SNAP OH NO!

SEE? INSULT A TIGER, AND YOU GET BAD LUCK! EVERY TIME!

WIZARD OF ID

YOUR DOG DOESN'T HAVE ANY SPOTS... WHY DO YOU CALL HIM "SPOT"?

HE'S NOT HOUSEBROKEN

BEETLE BAILEY

I CAN FEEL IT COMING. IT'S GONNA BE A...

BAD HAIR DAY

NON SEQUITUR

PEEL AGAINST NON-CONFORMITY

CONFORM TO INDEPENDENT THOUGHT

DOONESBURY FLASHBACKS

ENTREE! POTPOURRI! EXCELLENCE!

COULD BE TAKEN OUT HERE? YOUR 24-HOUR ALERT-CHAM NO SECRETS FROM MY FAN BASE!

OH, DADDY, DON'T BE SUCH A BABY! I HAVE NO SECRETS FROM MY FAN BASE!

YEAH, WELL, I DO. NOW BASS THAT FAN BASE NOW, HUH? IT'S THE SINE-NINE.

I GET ABOUT 3 MILLION HITS AT THE SINE-NINE.

3 MILLION PEOPLE WATCH YOU DO YOUR DUMBEST DUMBEST BREAK.

APPROXIMATELY IT SPURS DURING THE BREAK.

BLONDIE

BOY, THAT'S A TOUGH CHOICE

CHICKEN OR TURKEY? TURKEY OR CHICKEN?

ISN'T YOUR LUNCH HOUR NEARLY UP?

I DON'T CARE, I'M NOT GOING TO RUSH A BIG DECISION LIKE THIS

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SPORTS

Braves Look Good Again, But Pitching Isn't Enough

By Richard Justice
Washington Post Service

How the teams in the National League East are expected to fare this season. Teams are listed in predicted order of finish.

Atlanta Braves. Winners of seven division titles in the 1990s but only one World Series crown, the Braves are beginning to realize that stellar pitching

NL EAST

only gets you so far in the playoffs, where a three-man rotation and potent offense are key.

Using that reasoning, the offseason trade of the 16-game winner Denny Neagle to the Reds for second baseman Bret Boone, a gold glove, was smart, as the Braves still have three of the game's best hurlers in Greg Maddux, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz. Boone, along with the addition of the free agent Brian Jordan, will help make up for the season-long loss of Andres Galarraga, who has cancer.

New York Mets. This might be the Mets' best and last chance to unseat the Braves. Veterans such as Rickey Henderson, Bobby Bonilla, John Franco and John Olerud aren't getting any younger. The Mets' minor league talent has been depleted by a series of trades, so the time is now. The rejuvenated Henderson (66 steals led the majors in '98) will add much-needed speed. But after Al Leiter and Rick Reed (33 combined victories in '98), the Mets' starting pitching is thin.

Philadelphia Phillies. Curt Schilling is one of the few experienced players on a young team. He is just the fifth pitcher to register 300 strikeouts in consecutive years and led the majors with 15 complete games a year ago. The Phillies bolstered their rotation with the acquisition of Chad Ogea from Cleveland, but the staff's quality drops off sharply after that.

At third base, Scott Rolen (31 HRs) is drawing comparisons to Mike Schmidt. Bobby Abreu led the majors with a .427 average with runners in scoring position. The veterans Rito Gant and Rico Brogna will help, but the team is in the middle of the top-heavy NL East.

Florida Marlins. It could be a good news-bad news year for the Marlins, reduced to having one of the lowest payrolls in the league just two years after their World Series triumph. The good news: Alex Fernandez returns after missing 1998 with a rotator cuff injury. Bad news: He has three years and \$21 million left on his contract. If Fernandez returns to form, he'll probably be traded for prospects by midseason. Good news: Livan Hernandez pitched a career-best 234½ innings last season. Bad news: His ERA jumped from 4.20 to 5.37 after the All-Star break. Good news: Cliff Floyd and Derek Lee combined to hit 39 HRs last season. Bad news: Floyd sprained a knee ligament that will keep him out at the start of the season, and Lee finished 1998 by going 0 for 27.

Montreal Expos. Montreal's financial problems have drawn attention away from the fact that the Expos are a young team on the rise. Montreal's top three starters — Dustin Hermanson, Carl Pavano and Javier Vazquez — all have strong arms and can last longer than most major league starters, and the closer Ugoeth Urbina could be the best in the league in a few years. Montreal runs into major trouble, however, at the bottom of the rotation and in middle relief.

If the Expos can find a center fielder to team with Rondell White in left and Vladimir Guerrero in right, they could be dangerous. It would also help if White can stay healthy, as he hasn't played 100 games in two of the last three seasons. Shane Andrews hit 25 HRs last season but needs to cut down on his strikeouts.



PLAY BALL — Children playing at a baseball fair in Monterrey, Mexico, over the weekend. The U.S. major league season was opening there Sunday with a game between the San Diego Padres and the Colorado Rockies.

Reshuffled Astros Could Be Dangerous

Washington Post Service
How the teams in the National League Central are expected to fare this year:

Houston Astros. The Astros lost Randy Johnson, failed in a trade bid for Roger Clemens and lost Moises Alou for at least five months while he rehabs his surgically repaired left knee. So don't

NL CENTRAL

expect to see Houston back in the playoffs, right? Not necessarily.

Houston brought back the former Astro Keo Caminiti. The combination of Caminiti, Jeff Bagwell and Craig Biggio makes for one of the most powerful infields in baseball. This team could be scary at the plate, if Alou can make a full recovery by the end of the season and Caminiti can stay healthy.

Houston will not lack strong outfielders even with Alou out, since Derek Bell and Carl Everett combined for 37 home runs. The Astros' rotation will win with Shane Reynolds, Mike Hampton, Jose Lima and Sean Bergman.

St. Louis Cardinals. While all the attention was on Mark McGwire last season, pitching injuries killed St. Louis.

The news isn't much better this year. Matt Morris is lost for the season, and Andy Benes is out, probably until mid-season. That leaves Donovan Osborne, who has had just one fully healthy season since 1993, as the Cardinals' go-to guy on the mound.

Edgar Renteria (.347 on-base percentage) and a rejuvenated Eric Davis (28 home runs) should aid in run production.

Cincinnati Reds. A promising season for Cincinnati took a turn for the worse March 24, when the Reds put their newly acquired No. 1 starter, Danny Naegele, on the disabled list along with starter Scott Winchester and reliever Stan Belinda and removed the No. 2 starter, Pete Harnisch, from the rotation with back spasms.

The newly acquired Greg Vaughn (50 home runs in '98) will make up for the losses of Brett Boone and Paul Konerko.

Chicago Cubs. The Cubs' entire starting lineup is over 30, as are the No. 1 starter, Kevin Tapani, No. 3 starter, Terry Mulholland and the closer Rod Beck. It will be interesting to see whether Sammy Sosa's busy offseason has any effect on his performance.

Jose Hernandez hit 23 home runs last season but will plateau at shortstop with Jeff Blauser. Chicago's postseason hopes took a hit when starting pitcher Kerry Wood went down for the season.

Pittsburgh Pirates. Until last season, the Pirates seemed to be on their way back to contention by 2001, the target date set by the organization. But last year's squad flopped late in the season. Pittsburgh added Ed Sprague, Brian Giles and Mike Benjamine to complement the young sluggers Jason Kendall, who led the team in batting last season (.327), and Kevin Young, who led the team in home runs (27).

The pitching staff needs run support. **Milwaukee Brewers.** The Brewers have posted six straight losing records. Management stayed out of the free-agent market, so the Brewers will have to play with basically the same team that finished fifth in the division last year.

Jerome Burnitz is the only returning player who hit more than 20 home runs. Dave Nilsson and Sean Berry are capable of hitting for power. Fernando Vina was an all-star last season, but the Brewers desperately need pitching, so Vina may end up traded.

Dodgers Add Talent and New Manager

Washington Post Service
How the teams in the National League West are expected to fare this year:

Los Angeles Dodgers. After having just two managers the previous four decades, the Dodgers are on their third in two years: Davey Johnson, the American League manager of the year with Baltimore in 1997. The new general man-

NL WEST

ager, Kevin Malone, the Orioles' assistant GM the last three years, gave Johnson some high-priced help when he signed Kevin Brown to a seven-year, \$105 million contract.

The Dodgers had hoped their offense would improve with the addition of Todd Hundley. But his surgically repaired right elbow remains sore. Centerfielder Devon White was signed to bat leadoff. All-star Gary Sheffield has an ailing shoulder. He left the team briefly this spring and said he was considering retiring.

Colorado Rockies. The Rockies' big off-season acquisition was manager Jim Leyland, who left Florida following the Marlins' dismantling of their 1997 World Series champion team. Colorado hopes that he will infuse an intensity it felt last

year's team lacked under Don Baylor.

The Rockies bring back perhaps the best 3-4-5 combination in baseball in Larry Walker, Dante Bichette and Vinny Castilla. First baseman Todd Helton and shortstop Nefti Perez are each coming off solid rookie seasons.

Leyland will have to draw strong performances from at least two of his starting pitchers. The right-hander Darryl Kile was a free-agent bust after coming from Houston before last season, and right-hander Pedro Astacio was inconsistent. Leyland's team also lacks a proven closer.

San Francisco Giants. While division rivals Arizona and Los Angeles added star players and Colorado added Leyland, the Giants largely stood pat. But the Giants still have the left-fielder Barry Bonds, who at 34 is still one of the best all-around players in baseball. The Giants also have second baseman Jeff Kent, who put up career-best numbers last year (.297 average, 31 HRs, 128 RBI). Along with Kent, the infield is probably the team's strength, with J.T. Snow at first, Rich Aurilia at short and Bill Mueller at third. But the Giants' starting pitching is still suspect.

Arizona Diamondbacks. During the club's brief existence, the Diamond-

backs have not shied away from spending money. This winter they added three starting pitchers, including Randy Johnson. In the bullpen, Gregg Olson was one of baseball's best comeback stories last season, recording 30 saves to help solidify the bullpen.

The Diamondbacks' offense is less of a certainty. Third baseman Matt Williams (.267, 71 RBI) and shortstop Jay Bell (.251, 67 RBI) were disappointments last season.

San Diego Padres. The defending NL champion Padres have been compared by some to the 1998 Florida Marlins, who dumped most of the stars from their defending World Series championship team. But unlike the Marlins, the Padres tried to keep their players.

Kevin Brown went to Los Angeles for a record contract, pending free agent Greg Vaughn was traded to Cincinnati and the third baseman Ken Caminiti chose to return to Houston.

The Padres also lost Steve Finley to Arizona and traded starter Joey Hamilton to Toronto for Woody Williams. One face that has not changed is right-fielder Tony Gwynn, who needs 72 hits to reach 3,000 for his career. But after Andy Ashby, the starting rotation is thin.

Baseball Sells Its Soul To the Corporate Devil

Ads on Uniforms Would Shame the Game.

By George Vecsey
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Everybody was wondering just how baseball might respond to its epic 1998 season. Now we know. The weasels are thinking of rooting out the uniforms to advertisers.

What a grand idea. The glorious Redbirds that have festooned the St. Louis uniforms for much of this century will compete for space with pizza parlors.

VANTAGE POINT

The dignified stripes (not pinstripes, by the way) that grace the Yankee uniform will be cheapened by advertisements for video games. Or whatever.

They need the money, baseball executives said last week. Those dreadful players have held them up so much that they must recoup their losses any way they can.

Just when we wanted to see if Mark McGwire could match his 70 home runs — or maybe grow a second head, if the andro goes bonkers — we have to brood over Major League Baseball's lack of self-respect.

They are willing to turn their players into walking billboards next year. They say it would be done tastefully. Of course it would. As tasteful as stadiums being named for corporations that will probably be swallowed up or out of existence in a few years.

The advertising blitz on uniforms would be as tasteful as the shameless pressure on cities to build luxury boxes for people who actually hate baseball but love to ingest shrimp and wine in trendy settings.

Just when I was working it over in my mind which team to cast a hex upon this year — I was waffling among the Padres, Orioles, Red Sox and Yankees, for reasons I shall explain later — we have to confront baseball's own crass penchant for uglification.

Just when uniforms were edging back toward traditionalism, along comes the grubby marketing gang, hellbent on making Cal Ripken Jr. look like Michael Schumacher.

One argument I have heard is that European soccer teams have made a practice of selling space to the highest bidder. This is true. World-renowned athletes run around with the logos of pasta makers and electronics companies obliterating the team name.

Funny, but I had never previously heard American sports officials citing soccer as their role model. If they really want to emulate something about soccer,

they could try the predictably short games — under two hours and you're on your way home, with no time to develop shrimp-and-wine ennui.

The baseball geniuses could also emulate the spontaneous creativity of soccer, which has no overt coaching and no timeouts.

Meanwhile, baseball is looking to put a sandwich board on Sammy Sosa's shoulders. But discreetly, of course. As discreet as the shrewd performance by the San Diego Padres' management in recent months.

When last we saw the Padres, they were getting thumped by the Yankees, four straight, in the World Series, which was no disgrace. This is the way baseball is going to be in the next century, with big-market teams beating moderate-market teams.

Baseball has paid lip service to equity by initiating a luxury tax, but the concept of sharing television revenue, the way the National Football League does, is beyond these jokers.

Meanwhile, the San Diego officials had a plan for competing. They had already tossed out the old name for the stadium — Jack Murphy, a beloved sports columnist — to accept money from some corporation with a geeky name. Now they decided they needed a whole new stadium.

Following the euphoria of a pennant run, San Diego voters went for the full monty two weeks after the World Series. As soon as the votes for a new stadium were verified, the team was gutted. The Padres could not afford to keep Kevin Brown after all. Greg Vaughn was traded to Cincinnati. Ken Caminiti went back to Houston. Joey Hamilton and Steve Finley departed. The other day, the city approved the ball park, which will house a team fully committed to mediocrity.

The Padres' sins are not nearly as grievous as those of Wayne Huizenga, who demolished the Florida Marlins, weeks after they won the 1997 World Series and then sold the franchise for big bucks. It was a distinct pleasure to root the Marlins into the cellar last year.

There are other candidates for negative rooting this year, three in the same division — the Red Sox for driving Mo Vaughn away, the Orioles for importing the troubled Albert Belle and the Yankees for messing with Mother Nature by trading away their perfect biker, David Wells.

But for sheer flimflammy, the Padres deserve a patch on their uniform with No. 30 on it — dead last. They can put that patch next to the advertisement for the moving van. That threat usually comes next.

Zimmer Stands Up to Owner

New York Times Service
LOS ANGELES — Fed up with George Steinbrenner's role in the handling of the pitcher Hideki Irabu, the New York Yankees' interim manager, Don Zimmer, chastised the owner, asserted his intention to run the team the way he wanted and all but challenged Steinbrenner to fire him.

After Irabu failed to cover first base in a game Thursday, Steinbrenner charged into the Yankees' clubhouse, called Irabu a "fat pussy toad" and ordered the pitcher to remain in Florida. On Saturday, Steinbrenner reversed himself. He sent Irabu to rejoin the team in Los Angeles and then said that while Zimmer was indeed the manager, "it would be my hope" that Irabu would start Wednesday. Zimmer had already announced that Ramiro Mendoza would start that day.

Steinbrenner also said he was the one person in the organization who supported Irabu. This comment angered Zimmer.

"Who called him a fat pig, or a fat plump?" Zimmer said before the Yan-

kees' exhibition game against the Dodgers on Saturday. "Who called him that? Who started it all? When he said, 'I am the one Yankee who is in Irabu's corner.' Like nobody else is. I think that stunk."

Zimmer said Mendoza would start Wednesday no matter what Steinbrenner said. "Ordinarily, if an owner told me he wanted so-and-so to pitch, 99 times out of 100 I would say, yeah," Zimmer said. "But to me, this situation was different."

Zimmer called Steinbrenner a friend "who has done a lot of good things for me."

He added: "He's been good to me, but I always tried to do the right thing working for George Steinbrenner, too. I can't sit here and be a little wimp. If I'm the manager, I'll do what I think is right for our ball club, and I'll try to do what's right for our team."

Zimmer, who is 68, was asked whether he would resign if Steinbrenner gave him an ultimatum.

"It won't be resigning if something happens," he said. "I'll quit."

Boston Advances As Bates Scores 2

The Associated Press

Shawn Bates scored two goals and Byron Dafoe got his ninth shutout this season as Boston blanked Philadelphia 3-0 to move into a tie with Buffalo for the seventh spot in the Eastern Conference.

Visiting Philadelphia was playing without Eric Lindros, who is probably out for the rest of the regular season with

Avalanche 5, Oilers 2. Joe Sakic had a goal and two assists and Theo Fleury added two assists as Colorado beat Edmonton in a game of mile-stones. Sakic reached 600 assists with a pair. Fleury played his 800th game, his ninth as a member of the Avalanche, during which he has had eight goals and 11 assists.

Patrick Roy stopped 30 shots to move past Glenn Hall for fourth place on the regular-season victory list.

Shots 5, Stars 2. Pavel Demitra had two goals and two assists as the Blues beat Dallas in St. Louis.

Brett Hull, making his first visit to St. Louis since signing with Dallas, scored the Stars' first goal. The sellout crowd greeted Hull with a mixture of boos and cheers.

Devils 4, Penguins 2. Dave Andreychuk scored twice as New Jersey stretched its unbeaten streak to six games with a victory in Pittsburgh.

Sharks 5, Canucks 2. Vincent Damphousse scored three goals as the Sharks beat visiting Vancouver for the second time in as many nights.

Blackhawks 2, Hurricanes 1. Bob Probert scored on the



Ken Daneyko of New Jersey sending Martin Sonnenberg of Pittsburgh to the ice.

edge of the crease with 4:30 remaining in the third period. Eric Daze also scored for Chicago, which has won five straight at home.

Maple Leafs 5, Flames 1. Mats Sundin and Sergei Berezin each scored twice as Toronto won in Calgary to extend its unbeaten streak to five games.

Predators 3, Kings 2. Rookie Rob Valicevic scored on a rebound with 8:31 left in the

third period as Nashville beat visiting Los Angeles.

Senators 6, Panthers 4. Alexei Yashin scored two goals and added two assists as Ottawa won its fifth straight road game and moved four points ahead of New Jersey for the best record in the Eastern Conference.

Islanders 2, Mighty Ducks 2. Matt Cullen's goal with 2:26 left in the third period gave Anaheim a tie with Long Island.

Lightning 4, Capitals 3. Stephane Richer and Rob Zamuner scored third-period goals 37 seconds apart and Kevin Hodson made 31 saves as Tampa won at home in Jacques Demers' 1,000th game as a coach.

Canadiens 2, Sabres 1. Fred Chabot, Montreal's backup goalie, made 31 saves as the Canadiens beat Buffalo for his first victory of the season.

Nets on a Streak: 3 Straight

Defense Leads New Jersey to Victory Over the Celtics

The Associated Press

The New Jersey Nets are on their longest winning streak of the season — a modest three games — because of their defense.

On Sunday, they forced Boston into 23 turnovers and held the host Celtics to 37.5 percent shooting from the field in winning, 91-79.

"The energy that they're displaying at the defensive end is as good as any team in the league," the Nets' coach, Don Casey, said. "They're helping each other out. It's a solid defensive effort."

Kendall Gill has been the leader of that defensive effort with 18 steals in the past two games. He got seven steals and scored 19 points Sunday. Keith Van Horn scored 25 points, and Stephen Marbury added 20 for the Nets.

Antoine Walker led the Celtics with 32 points and 11 rebounds, but it wasn't enough to keep Boston from losing its sixth straight home game.

"I thought we had good effort," the Celtics' coach, Rick Pitino, said. "There have been nights where I have been disappointed, but tonight we played hard."

Hawks 85, Hornets 83. In Atlanta, Mookie Blaylock scored seven points late in the fourth quarter and Grant Long hit a baseline jumper with 2.6 seconds left, carrying the Hawks to victory over Charlotte.

The Hornets, who have lost six straight to the Hawks, had a chance to win at the end, but Eddie Jones' 3-point attempt was wide.

Alan Henderson led the Hawks with 18 points and Tyrone Corbin added 15. Jones led Charlotte with 16 points and Derrick Coleman

had 18 rebounds and 14 points. Chucky Brown and Elden Campbell scored 14 points each.

Blaylock became the 216th player in NBA history to score 10,000 career points when his 19-foot jumper put the Hawks up, 76-73, with 4:52 to play.

Rodman Dubs Himself Team Leader. Dennis Rodman says the Los Angeles Lakers need him to succeed, but some of his teammates aren't so sure. The Associated Press reported from New York.

"We can't afford another distraction from him," the Laker guard Derek Harper said in the current edition of Newsweek magazine. "I'm not management, but if it happened again, that would be it."

Rodman has been late for practices and has squabbled with Coach Kurt Rambis. He also missed four games on a recent road trip because of undisclosed personal reasons.

He was ejected Saturday night in the Lakers' 81-76 loss to Golden State, and his two technical fouls increased his season total to 11. The rest of the team has 12 technicals.

Rodman told the magazine he was the only one who could lead Los Angeles to the NBA championship. The Lakers (22-12) are second to Portland in the Pacific Division.

"They depend on me to keep this ship afloat," he said. "It's amazing to me that a person who doesn't score, doesn't make Michael Jordan-type moves, is expected to come in and win a championship for a team in total disarray. Am I a genius? Am I a miracle worker? Am I God? No — but I have a gift."

SPORTS

Why Are Ticket Prices High? Economists Blame the Fans

By Bill Shaikin
Los Angeles Times Service

LOS ANGELES — Kevin Brown is not an idiot, but you might have thought otherwise from the gasps and snickers that greeted his answer.

As the Los Angeles Dodgers unwrapped their \$105 million purchase from the local media last year, someone asked Brown how he felt about signing one of the contracts that could force ticket prices beyond the reach of many fans.

"I have never believed that players' salaries are directly related to ticket prices," Brown said. "Not related? Salaries go up, so ticket revenues must go up, so ticket prices must go up, right?"

Wrong, according to economists. Teams that blame escalating salaries for escalating ticket prices are simply using players as a scapegoat, a University of Chicago economist, Allen Sanderson, says.

How does Sanderson evaluate Brown's assessment? "He's basically right," said the professor, who lectures and writes on the economics of professional sports.

Player salaries have virtually no impact on ticket prices. Ticket prices are set by what the market will bear. After that, it's a matter of who gets the money, Roper Murdoch or Kevin Brown. Murdoch is the Dodgers' owner.

A team would raise ticket prices, regardless of player salaries, only if it believed that fans would pay the higher prices, Sanderson said.

"If I'm an owner and I have to justify this to my season-ticket holders, I have to blame somebody," Sanderson said. "I can't stand up and say, 'The ticket prices are going up 19 percent next year because you'll pay it.'"

During a winter in which the Anaheim Angels signed Mo Vaughn for \$80 million, the team raised ticket prices and included this statement in its announcement: "We are committed to providing the best product we can, which is a consistent, championship-caliber baseball team. To do that in this day and age makes it necessary to expand the payroll. One of the only ways to help offset that increase is through ticket pricing."

Sanderson and a Stanford University economist, Roger Noll, acknowledge the correlation but suggest cause and effect. To the extent that one may cause the other, and economists debate that — higher prices lead to higher salaries, not vice versa.

After all, the Angels raised ticket prices before they signed Vaughn. The Dodgers raised prices before they signed Brown. "The reason teams are willing to

pay so much is because their revenues can support it," Noll said.

The New York Yankees receive nearly \$50 million a year in cable television revenue, covering much of their payroll before a single fan enters Yankee Stadium. But the next five highest payrolls belong to teams with new stadiums that double as virtual cash registers.

If higher salaries indeed produced higher ticket prices, then the Yankees or Baltimore Orioles — and their \$74 million payrolls — should have charged the most for their seats last year. The highest ticket prices, however, belonged to the Boston Red Sox, driven by high demand (intense local interest) and low supply (the smallest stadium in the major leagues). The Red Sox increased their average ticket price 16 percent this year, to \$23.84.

Consider the opposite: If higher salaries truly drove ticket prices higher, then lower salaries would drive ticket prices lower.

"Suppose right now you reinstated the old reserve clause," Noll said, citing the rule that restricted player movement and depressed salaries before free agency, "and player salaries dropped 50 percent. Will the Angels reduce their ticket prices? The answer is no." Noll added: "If fans were not willing to pay a lot, salaries would not be so high."



ORANGE CRUSH — Maarten Snijder, left, of the Netherlands, helping tackle Kim Jae Hyun of South Korea in a rugby World Cup qualifier Sunday in Seoul. The Koreans won, 78-14, and will face Tonga for a place in the finals.

Bayern Fights Back

Down by 2, It Earns Draw at Dortmund

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Borussia Dortmund ended Bayern Munich's eight-match victory streak, but it could not beat the Bundesliga leader even after having the advantage of a two-goal lead and one extra player.

Bayern fought back to draw, 2-2, at Dortmund on Saturday.

Heiko Herndlrich scored twice in the first half for Borussia. The

About 5,000 soldiers and security forces patrolled the area around the stadium and major roads for the first official game played in the North Ossetian capital since a bomb killed more than 50 people there in March. Both teams observed a minute's silence before the match for those who died when the bomb tore through a market.

Andrei Tikhonov of Spartak scored the only goal, in the 48th minute. (AP, Reuters)

Soccer Roundup

Munich defender Sammy Kuffour was sent off in the 36th minute.

The momentum changed after Stefan Reuter, a Dortmund defender, was ejected in the 51st minute.

Seven minutes later, Carsten Jancker passed into the goalmouth for Alexander Zickler to score for Bayern. Jancker then leveled for Munich.

The victory moved Bayern 15 points ahead of Kaiserslautern, which started the day in second place but then lost, 1-0, at home to Bayer Leverkusen, which took over the No. 2 spot.

FRANCE Bordeaux beat Toulouse, 3-0, to reclaim first place in the French first division from Marseille on Saturday. Marseille won, 2-1, at Monaco on Friday to move temporarily into first.

RUSSIA Spartak Moscow began the defense of its Russian League crown by beating the 1995 titleholder, Alania, 1-0, amid tight security in Vladikavkaz.

Yugoslav Players Protest

Sinisa Mihajlovic and Dejan Stankovic, the Serbian stars of the Italian league leader Lazio, drew loud applause from the crowd as they entered the field at Olympic stadium wearing a mourning band to protest NATO raids on Yugoslavia. The Associated Press reported from Rome.

The two Serbian players embraced before the kickoff of the crucial league match Saturday against AC Milan and displayed a white T-shirt under their team jerseys reading "Peace No War."

Other Lazio players wore the T-shirt but not the armband.

Some Lazio supporters burned a U.S. flag and displayed swastikas and a banner reading "Kill Private Ryan," a reference to the Steven Spielberg film "Saving Private Ryan" which depicted American heroism in World War II.

SCOREBOARD

BASEBALL

EXHIBITION BASEBALL

Team	Score	Time
Toronto & Kansas City	4-3	1:00
Cleveland 1, Philadelphia 4		
Detroit 4, Pittsburgh 3		
Houston 7, Cincinnati 2		
Florida 4, New York Mets 3		
Midwest 5, St. Louis 4		
Chicago Cubs 4, Seattle 2		
San Diego 4, Colorado 3		
Atlanta 9, Baltimore 1		
Texas 6, Houston 5		
Los Angeles & Anaheim 1		
Minnesota 5, San Diego 5		
Oakland 4, San Francisco 0		

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Belgian Sprints To Flanders Victory

CYCLING Peter Van Petegem of the TVM team outsprinted two other Belgian riders Sunday to win the Tour of Flanders World Cup race. Van Petegem and Johan Museeuw, who rides for Mapei, broke clear at the start of the steep Wall of Geraardsbergen, the penultimate climb, after Markus Zberg skidded away on a sharp bend and blocked the other riders' path. Frank Vandenbroucke of Cofidis closed the gap with the two leaders on the final climb, 12 kilometers (7 miles) from the line, but paid dearly for the effort during the sprint finish in which he could not match Van Petegem. Van Petegem leads the overall World Cup standings after two races. (Reuters)

Records for Relay Teams

SWIMMING Australia and Japan dominated the final day of the world short-course championships in Hong Kong on Sunday, claiming another world record apiece. The Australian men's 400-meter medley relay team set a pounding pace and fended off a fierce last-minute challenge from Sweden to clock a world record in three minutes, 29.88 seconds. The team broke Australia's own world record of 3:30.66 set in Gothenburg in April 1997. The Japanese women's team set a record in the 400-meter medley relay with 3:57.62, beating the previous best of 3:57.73 set by China in 1993. Japan brought only five swimmers but won second place in the medal table with six gold, two silver and one bronze. They also set two world records. (Reuters)

Tail Wags for Australia

CRICKET Colin Miller, a specialist bowler batting at number 10 for Australia, hit 43 Sunday to help his team add 61 runs for its last two first-innings wickets. Miller hit two sixes off Curtly Ambrose. Australia was all out for 303 just before lunch. (AFP)

FBI Investigates Films

WRESTLING The Federal Bureau of Investigation is investigating hidden-camera videotapes showing U.S. college wrestlers undressing, showering and unclothed in weigh-in areas at meets, including at a national tournament at Northwestern University, the Chicago Tribune reported Sunday. Images from the tapes are included in "hidden camera" pornography material that is being marketed via the Internet and by mail, the newspaper said. Those familiar with the tapes, including officials at Northwestern and at the University of Pennsylvania, believe the tapes were made using cameras concealed inside gym bags. (AP)

The Unpredictable Rules In Davis Cup First Round

Sweden Is Dethroned as Kucera Leads Slovaks to Victory

By Christopher Clarey
International Herald Tribune

BIRMINGHAM, England — The Davis Cup began with an upset in 1900 when the United States gave a tennis lesson to Great Britain, the nation which codified the modern game.

So it seems appropriate that in the 100th year of this oow-venerable competition, the unpredictable remains the rule. Rankings count for less than they should; the small can threaten the big; champions can very quickly become candidates for relegation.

Consider Sweden. With its rotating cast of co-besive pranksters, it won the Davis Cup the last two years, but in this year's first round, which concluded on Sunday, the Swedes lost, 3-2, at home to Karol Kucera and the Slovak Republic.

Consider Italy. In December, it was playing host to the Swedes in the Davis Cup final in Milan, but by Sunday it was playing dead rubbers in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, after the Swiss with their veteran Marc Rosset and their gifted newcomer Roger Federer had taken an insurmountable 3-0 lead.

Above all, consider Spain. It had Carlos Moya, the No. 2 player in the world, and Alex Corretja, the No. 6. It had the home-court advantage and bad chosen Moya's and Corretja's favorite surface: red clay. But the Spaniards were still beaten, 3-2, by the Brazilians, or more accurately, by Gustavo Kuerten.

"The result of the match was Kuerten 3 and Spain 2," said the Spanish captain, Manuel Santana, whose nation remains the strongest tennis nation never to have won the Davis Cup.

When Kuerten is in form, he is perhaps the finest claycourter in the world, as anyone can attest who watched his stirring run from obscurity to the 1997 French Open title. He has yet to come close to repeating that performance.

Last month, Moya had beaten him to become

(very temporarily) No. 1 in the world. But Kuerten has traditionally dominated the tall, long-haired Spaniard, and he has never dominated him as thoroughly as he did Sunday. Kuerten needed only one hour and 39 minutes to win 6-2, 6-4, 6-1 and exact a measure of revenge for Spain's victory in last year's first round in Brazil.

"This is the best thing that has ever happened to this team," Kuerten said. "I'm going to be playing in the second round of the Davis Cup for the first time in my life."

It was an Easter weekend for surprises, and a reassuring weekend for this competition even without world No. 1 Pete Sampras, who again declined to play for the United States because he prefers to save his energy for more personal goals. Sampras turned out to be the only member of the top 10 who did not take part in the opening round.

"If he doesn't want to be part of it, if anything, it's his loss," said Tim Henman of Britain, who evened his country's historic rematch with the Americans at 2-2 on Sunday after defeating Todd Martin 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7-4) in the first reverse singles.

Henman's teammate, Greg Rusedski, and the American Jim Courier played later in the evening to decide the tie, and whichever team won was going to play in the quarterfinals against Australia, which emerged victorious from a taxing and occasionally chaotic road trip to Zimbabwe with a 4-1 victory.

A year ago in the Australian country town of Mildura, the Australians had imploded against the Zimbabweans as Mark Philippoussis openly feuded with Captain John Newcombe and Coach Tony Roche and declined to play. Philippoussis was back in the lineup for this year's rematch, but Philippoussis was beaten in the opening rubber by Zimbabwe's quick and combative Byron Black.

The credit for the Australian victory goes to Todd Woodbridge and Mark Woodforde, who defeated Byron and his brother Wayne in four sets in



Gustavo Kuerten of Brazil keeping his eye on the ball as he defeated Carlos Moya of Spain.

Saturday's doubles, and above all, to Patrick Rafter, the two-time United States Open champion. Rafter won both his singles matches and beat Byron in straight sets on Sunday to give the Australians an insurmountable 3-1 lead.

In July's other quarterfinals, Russia will host the Slovak Republic. France will host Brazil and Belgium will host Switzerland.

Before Czechoslovakia split amicably into two halves on Jan. 1, 1993, the Czech half was always the stronger half, producing champions like Ivan Lendl, Jan Kodeš, Martina Navrátilová and Hana Mandlíková. But the Slovaks have become the stronger half since independence and after letting a 2-0 lead slip away against the Swedes last year, they did not let a 2-0 lead slip away this year.

Although Jonas Björkman and Nicklas Kulti

managed to defeat Kucera and Dominik Hrbaty in five sets in Saturday's doubles to make it 2-1, Kucera put an end to the suspense in the first reverse singles on Sunday by defeating Thomas Enqvist, the Australian Open finalist, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-4.

The suspense in Frankfurt, where the Germans were hosting the Russians, would take considerably longer to dissipate. On Saturday, in what was probably his final Davis Cup match, Boris Becker and his partner David Prinosil defeated Yevgeni Kafelnikov and Andrei Olhovskiy, 10-8, in the fifth set.

It was stirring stuff, but the quality of the line-judging was maddening to Kafelnikov, who walked off court after the match without shaking Becker's and Prinosil's hands.

"It was a great match, but the linesmen spoiled the play," said the Russian captain Shamil Tarpishev. "All of them were German, and they will not decide in Russia's favor. It was outrageous."

Said Becker: "Both sides suffered from the calls. They didn't decide the match."

But Kafelnikov, the world's No. 3, quickly took matters into his own gifted hands on Sunday, defeating Tommy Haas in straight sets to even the match at 2-2.

That left the coconclusion to Marat Safin, Kafelnikov's power-stroking 19-year-old teammate. In his Davis Cup debut last year, Safin lost the decisive match to Courier in the first round against the United States, but his game and psyche have evolved considerably since then, and against Nicolas Pietrangeli of Germany, he triumphed 7-6 (11-9), 6-4, 6-4.

An even younger man, Xavier Malisse, was the decisive figure in Belgium's 3-2 victory over the Czechs. Malisse, an 18-year-old with no shortage of flair or self-assurance, defeated Slava Dosedel 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, 7-6 (9-7) in the final match to put Belgium into the quarterfinals for the second straight year.

The French also advanced, defeating the Netherlands, 4-1, on clay in Nimes. It was the first match for France under its new captain, Guy Forget, who replaced his longtime friend, Yannick Noah.

What is clear is that Cedric Pioline plays as well for Forget as he did for Noah.

After spending nearly five hours on court on Saturday with his partner, Guillaume Raoux, in a five-set defeat of Paul Haarhuis and Jan Siemerink, Pioline returned to the court on Sunday and clinched the victory by upsetting Richard Krajicek in four sets.

Rivaldo's Hat Trick Propels Barcelona, 3-1

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

Rivaldo scored a hat trick Sunday as Barcelona beat Oviedo, 3-1, to stay atop the Spanish first division, while Real Madrid rose to third place with a hard-fought victory over Alaves.

The Brazilian's first goal came on a left-footed blast from outside the penalty area in the 23d minute at Barcelona's Camp Nou stadium.

Dely Valdes of Panama tied the game three minutes later. But Rivaldo quickly put the Catalans back on top, converting a penalty in the 31st minute after Jose Manuel Mendez was called for fouling Luis Figo. Rivaldo added another penalty in the 86th. The victory gave Barcelona 56 points, six more than Valencia.

Real Madrid, struggling to salvage a disappointing season, chalked up its fourth straight triumph under its new coach, John Toshack, coming from behind twice to beat 17th-place Alaves by a score of 3-2. Real Madrid rose from fifth to third place with 49 points, pending the results of a late game between Celta, which has 48, and Extremadura.

In other games, Mallorca beat Villarreal, 2-0; Valladolid defeated Tenerife, 2-1; Athletic Bilbao and Real Sociedad played to a scoreless tie; Espanyol beat Betis, 1-0, and Zaragoza beat Salamanca, 2-0. In matches played Saturday, Deportivo la Coruna tied Atletico Madrid, 1-1, and Valencia beat Racing Santander, 1-0.

NETHERLANDS PSV Eindhoven came back from a goal down Sunday to beat Ajax Amsterdam, 3-1, in the battle between two of Dutch soccer's most powerful clubs.

Although Luc Nilis and Ruud van Nistelrooij scored the goals, PSV's hero was Ronald Watterius. The goalkeeper made several first-half saves that allowed his team to reach halftime trailing by just one goal.

Beani McCarthy gave Ajax the lead in the 13th minute but then saw Watterius turn back a string of efforts before the break.

PSV won the match with a three-goal burst in the first 25 minutes of the second half. Nilis scored two minutes after the break before Van Nistelrooij made it 2-1 in the 64th minute. Nilis finished the scoring four minutes later.

ENGLAND Manchester United and Arsenal were both held to draws Saturday, allowing Chelsea and Leeds United to gain ground in the English Premier League.

United conceded a David Beckham goal to draw, 1-1, at Wimbledon in South London; Arsenal drew, 0-0, at Southampton; Chelsea won an all-London match, 1-0, at Charlton Athletic and Leeds United

beat Nottingham Forest, 3-1.

Roberto Di Matteo scored the Chelsea goal after 14 minutes. The Charlton goalkeeper, Sasa Ilic, parried a cross straight at Di Matteo, and the Italian sent the ball straight past him into the net.

Ilic protested against the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia earlier in the week, and Alan Curbishley, the Charlton manager, refused to fault his play in goal. "Sasa was very upset at the start of the week," Curbishley said. "If you take the goal out, he has made some fine saves and played well."

ITALY Ronaldo scored his first goals in nearly three months as Inter Milan beat visiting Fiorentina, 2-0, on Saturday to help push Lazio six points atop the Italian Serie A standings.

Ronaldo scored both goals on penalties, improving his season total to eight in 12 league matches. Fiorentina's defeat meant that Lazio increased its lead even though it could only draw, 0-0, with AC Milan in Rome.

Ronaldo converted the first penalty in the 45th minute and capped an outstanding performance that ended Inter's 10-match winless streak. He made it two with seven minutes left and completed his much-applauded show by hitting the bar with a powerful drive in the closing minutes.

The Brazilian striker did not look entirely fit, but he troubled Fiorentina's defense every time he got the ball. (AP, AFP, Reuters)



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